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Inter-Arab Affairs

According to a MENA report, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan delegate to the Arab League, met with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo. MENA notes that al-Turayki asked the secretary general to urge the UN Security Council to dispatch a "fact-finding committee" to investigate "allegations" that Libya is host to terrorist training camps.

Israel

When asked about the new Israeli Government, Yasir 'Arafat stated in an interview published in HA'ARETZ that "the upheaval symbolizes a big change. The Israeli people voted for peace." "We want a permanent solution," he said. "When there is goodwill on both sides, an acceptable solution will be found. But it will not be done without the PLO."

Israel will sign the international treaty for the prohibition of chemical weapons at the end of 1992, HA'ARETZ reported. According to the paper, the government is "waiting for the final approval of the draft" by the international disarmament committee in Geneva.

Iran

Addressing Ground Forces commanders, Ayatollah Khamene'i "stressed the need to align the Army's own general culture with pure Islamic culture," Tehran Radio reported. Khamene'i told the commanders: "You must take maximum care in preserving your religion, faith, virtue, and sincerity," the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Urges UN To Investigate Terrorist 'Camps'

NC3007133692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, at noon today.

Al-Turayki said he asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that the Arab League ask the United Nations to send a fact-finding committee from the Security Council to investigate reports of terrorist training camps in Libya and to ascertain that these reports are mere allegations.

He said that he and the secretary general exchanged views on the Arab situation in general and on the Palestinian issue, the Libyan crisis, and the water problem between Syria and Turkey.

He said the seven-member committee on the Libyan crisis will meet when necessary and disclosed that Egypt and certain Arab countries are holding contacts for a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis.

Al-Turayki hoped the Arab League Council's September meeting would provide an opportunity to clear the Arab air.

He also hoped Arab efforts to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis peacefully would succeed.

Arab League Issues Statement on Turkish Ties

NC3007153992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The Arab League is following with great interest recent public statements concerning the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The Arab League's General Secretariat issued a statement today saying that the League believes in consolidating the strong and historic ties between Turkey and Arab countries.

The statement emphasizes the importance of creating the right atmosphere to help the concerned parties reach agreement concerning the waters of the two rivers. The statement notes that bilateral and trilateral talks have been going on since 1982.

The Arab League, the statement says, believes that the current situation in the Middle East calls for concerted efforts to reach peace and end the causes of trouble in the region. The statement urges adherence to the principles and provisions of international law concerning the sharing of river waters. The statement also calls for neighborliness and goodwill in regional ties. It says that countries in the region should not harm one another and should abide by the principles of international law.

Ambassador Ahmad 'Adil, assistant secretary general of the Arab League today received the Turkish charge d'affaires in Cairo and conveyed to him the position of the Arab League concerning the waters of the Tigris and the Euphrates.

U.S. Said Preparing 'New Aggression' Against Iraq

PM3007081592 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Bush and Carter's Fate"]

[Text] It is difficult to understand the current U.S. rage geared to launching a new aggression against Iraq on feeble excuses and pretexts unless there are premeditated U.S.-Western plans prepared months ago in the hope of achieving what the 40-day war and continuous bombing failed to achieve; namely, a change in the Baghdad regime to reassure some alarmed Arab and Gulf regimes and to peddle Israel's concept of a settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict on the grounds of Yitzhaq Rabin's so-called flexibility.

At the time of the first U.S.-NATO aggression, some naive people believed that President Bush was anxious to implement UN resolutions and expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait. That ploy convinced some Arab regimes and leaderships, which then provided the political and military cover for the U.S. troop concentrations in the Arabian Peninsula. It seems that the same naive people will swallow the same bait again. Some of them will remain silent about the new aggression as if it is going to take place on some other continent, while some others will enthusiastically participate in it as if it were a war for the liberation of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

The issue of the inspection of the Agriculture Ministry cannot possibly be such a cardinal crime as to warrant, as a punishment, the destruction of a besieged state and the burning of the crops of people who are suffering starvation and illness and who have not yet buried the martyrs who fell in the first aggression. Furthermore, the search for "documents" does not warrant moving aircraft carriers, declaring a state of emergency at the U.S. Defense Department, and making extensive contacts to revive the Hafar al-Batin alliance.

As the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina has not prompted a single U.S. armored car to move to implement the UN resolutions, and as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories for over 25 years has not prevented a single dollar of U.S. aid from reaching Israel, how can we possibly accept or believe President Bush's "concern" for international legitimacy and UN resolutions flouted at the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry?

The truth which has escaped many people in these bad American times is that the NATO planes did not drop their 100,000 tons of explosives on Iraq, its bridges, factories, and power plants, so that they may be rebuilt by strong Iraqi hands under siege and in record time not exceeding one-and-a-half years. The aim was to have

them rebuilt by American, French, and British companies, as happened in Kuwait and, before that, in Germany and Japan. The purpose of the second Gulf war was to plunder the oil wealth, mortgage Arab oilfields for years to come, and prevent Arab military, economic, and security development.

Washington might target Iraq again. It might renew its raids, cut off the south or north from the center, and create new entities with new names. It might even dare to dispatch forces to storm Baghdad itself, for it is the sole superpower controlling the world these days. There is no guarantee, however, that such measures would succeed. They may turn out to be catastrophic for the perpetrators and their followers. Steadfast Iraq was bombed for 41 days but that did not break its back. We do not believe that additional bombing for a week or more would change anything except maybe kill more innocent people who cannot even find milk for their children, and destroy more bridges built with the toil and resolve of the people.

These are difficult days for everyone, especially for President George Bush, who wants an election victory at any price, just as Carter did at the time of the U.S. Tehran embassy hostage crisis. Will Bush meet the same fate as Carter, and will his dream of victory be buried in Iraq's marshes just as Carter's dreams were buried in the Iranian desert?

A peaceful settlement of the Agriculture Ministry crisis would not be in Bush's favor and would not improve his election chances. Just recently, millions of American voters have realized that the second Gulf war did not achieve all its objectives and that it was a big farce. That is why none of the participants has dared to celebrate victory, for it was more of a defeat than a victory.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Surani on Baker's Tour, Rabin's Policy

NC2807135092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 20, 21

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is visiting Cairo today as part of a tour that includes Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. Do you think achieving real progress through the peace process is likely, and has the ground been broken for that?

[Al-Surani] We hope Baker's visit at this stage will not be like his previous ones, merely as a sponsor of the peace process, period. I hope that the United States will take steps to implement international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338—which Rabin has intentionally ignored in his speech to the Knesset—especially as this is the only available opportunity in which the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the world are accepting a speeding up of the solution and the settlement. If this opportunity is missed, then it will be many years before there is a similar one, particularly as Rabin has become prime minister after Shamir's policy has collapsed and his cards have been burned.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your assessment of Israeli Housing Minister Benyamin Ben-Eli'ezer's decision to stop signing new housing contracts? Do you believe the decision to be binding on the Israeli Government to stop building all settlements in the long run?

[Al-Surani] Ben-Eli'ezer's decision to stop the new housing contracts indicates change. We hope he will follow it with a decision that stops the building of settlements completely for the sake of the peace process. We also hope Baker will not rush to give the guarantees to Israel until such a decision is issued and the United States ascertains that Israel will abide by and implement it.

[Al-Sa'id] But there is an impression that the United States will rush to give Israel the loan guarantees, especially as Bush has election reasons for moving toward a less tense and a warmer relationship with Israel.

[Al-Surani] If the United States were to give Israel the guarantees, it would undermine all its efforts toward the peace process and then there would be no hope of any talk about a settlement.

[Al-Sa'id] Rabin has said that the Palestinians are the first priority. The autonomy he is proposing remains an ambiguous offer and is to a large extent unfair because it reserves sovereignty for Israel.

[Al-Surani] According to international law, autonomy is that which regimes granted to colonies so as to extend their presence or self-rule to a minority within a country, such as the Kurds in Iraq. This international law concept of autonomy ceased to exist when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in the 1960's on the independence of all peoples. Autonomy was mentioned in the Camp David Accords. Egypt's concept was that it was a transitional period to self-determination. Begin interpreted it as self-administration rule, in other words, the land would remain Israeli and the Israelis would have total sovereignty while the Palestinians would be temporary residents and not citizens who would manage their own education and health affairs. Rabin has the same concept, as evidenced by his speech to the Knesset. Rabin does not recognize the Palestinians as a people and, as such, there is no political issue. Israel should have opened a dialogue directly with the PLO. The world, including the United Nations, recognizes the PLO and deals with it.

What I fear is that there are some who have been deceived by Rabin arriving in his new post and that they believe he is coming to find a settlement. But they should know that the settlement which Shamir had in mind is the same one Rabin has in mind. This does not mean he

will succeed in his maneuvering. The intifadah will continue and will not stop as long as Israel remains in the occupied territories. The Arabs are changing their stand and there is improvement. It is true that this improvement is not what we would wish, but still, it is better than what we had before.

[Al-Sa'id] But do you accept the proposed autonomy, although it is partial, limited, and incomplete?

[Al-Surani] The Palestinians accept it as a transitional period during which Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories and international troops will be deployed. Then the Palestinian people will exercise their right to self-determination. This is the understanding of the autonomy, one that is shared by the entire world, with the exception of Israel and the United States. The United States' stated policy remains opposed to the PLO, to self-determination, and to a Palestinian state. I hope they have learned from past experience, which has taught everyone that there cannot be stability, peace, or security without resolving the Palestinian issue. What is required is not a concession, generosity, or favor from anyone, be it the United States or Israel. All that is needed is commitment to international legality. The United Nations divided Palestine and cut off part of it and called it Israel. So Israel exists, but where is the Palestinian state and who swallowed it? The United Nations must remove it from Israel's stomach, and the United States, which was behind the partition, must honor this legality by ensuring that there are two states, in accordance with the UN partition resolution.

[Al-Sa'id] How does the picture look to you now in light of the new Israeli Government, taking into consideration the U.S. elections and the time factor, which does not necessarily work in favor of the Arabs?

[Al-Surani] If the fate of the world's peoples is linked to the U.S. elections, then there will be no hope for the Palestinian issue, which in such a case will turn into a U.S. domestic political issue. Accordingly, we hold the United States, regardless of who is ruling it, responsible for all the destruction sustained by the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian peoples and for all the crimes committed by Israel against the Arab nation, because these acts were all made with U.S. financial, economic, military, and political backing. Thus, the enemy that is directing these acts will be the United States, while Israel is merely a tool for implementing the U.S. interests. One must not make the mistake of mixing up issues, thus turning the elections issue into one of denying the rights of the Palestinian people today, the Lebanese people tomorrow, Jordan the day after tomorrow, Syria thereafter, and so on.

[Al-Sa'id] But fears are increasing more with Rabin in power since the U.S. election campaign will prompt Bush to seek warmer relations with Israel and Prime Minister Rabin, who is the United States' favorite choice.

[Al-Surani] Undoubtedly we fear the situation very much because Rabin is more intelligent than Shamir and is playing with words, unlike Shamir who was blunt and harsh. Rabin is doing exactly what Shamir wanted, but under the name of security. He views settlements from a security perspective. So far, Rabin has not backed down on the settlements, whereas the basis for any serious settlement is a complete halt to the settlement, something that he has not done.

[Al-Sa'id] On the other hand, do you fear that the United States might not play an honest and neutral role, thus siding with Israel at your expense?

[Al-Surani] We hope the United States will make a serious move. Time has taught us to view our cause through deeds, not words. Since the Balfour Declaration, we have been hearing promises, while the deeds were (?contrary) to what we were promised.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you specifically want the United States and Israel to do to boost the peace process and convince you that the current efforts are a positive development?

[Al-Surani] We want a commitment by international legitimacy that would prevent the occupation of territory by force, demographic and topographical changes, the transfer of the residents of the occupied territories, and the continued occupation of one nation by another. International legitimacy also says all nations have a right to independence and self-determination. This is the international rules, enshrined in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which we urge Israel and the United States to adhere. We are not asking for anything outside the framework of international legitimacy. Anyone who wants stability must adhere to it. Anyone who wants to be a sponsor of this process must adhere to it or he will lose credibility and, consequently, his power to carry out further discussions or make further moves on the issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Rabin has said that he would use a referendum to seek approval for any withdrawal from the Arab territories.

[Al-Surani] A referendum must not contravene legitimacy. It is impermissible for Israel to hold a referendum that asks the people whether it should withdraw. What kind of referendum is this? Can the people be asked to hold a referendum on something they do not possess? People can be asked to vote in a referendum on something they own, not something they usurped.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your view of Rabin's distinction between security settlements, which he will keep, and political settlements, which he will freeze?

[Al-Surani] Settlements are settlements. There is no such thing as a political or security settlement. Their settlements are military. They are invaders who came to expel a nation and take its place. This is nothing unusual; everything in Israel is military. It is an army state, the

twentieth century Sparta. This is why they carry arms and have the right to kill. Where are the political settlements? There also exists a special brigade whose members are dressed in Palestinian garments and kill Palestinians. Logic dictates that all settlements are unjust and must be halted immediately. Keeping the settlements established after 1967 is unacceptable. The United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the UN General Assembly have all passed dozens of resolutions voiding these settlements of any legal standing and asserting that any effects thereof be also null and void. This is why I say that the United States will destroy everything and ruin the peace if it gives Israel loan guarantees; the money will mean more settlements.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you think of an agreement whereby Israel withdraws from some of the West Bank and Gaza?

[Al-Surani] They must withdraw from all the occupied territories. Gaza needs more territory; it is only 300 sq km in size yet it houses 1 million people. It follows that it must have more territory, not less. The West Bank is made up of barren hills where water is extremely difficult to find. It is also not large enough for its original inhabitants, most of whom now live abroad. Hence we cling to international legitimacy, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories. What was done in the case of Sinai must be done in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Al-Sa'id] With the spotlight now on the Palestinians and less on Jordan with Syria, some fear that an agreement might be reached with you and leave Syria isolated and intentionally postpone the Golan Heights issue.

[Al-Surani] We do not want to return to Arab divisions. We are seeking regional stability, peace, and security. This is why a peace must be comprehensive. All issues must be resolved without exception. If the agreement does not include the Golan and southern Lebanon, the region will remain on the brink of war. We have before us the example of Egypt and Israel. The Camp David Accords were signed but peace remained elusive.

[Al-Sa'id] The United States is asking that the Arab boycott of Israeli be lifted as a confidence-building measure. What is your view on the idea?

[Al-Surani] We do not want to get into legal nuances. A boycott is a legitimate self-defense weapon, one which the United States itself uses against China and Russia whenever there are problems between them. Occupation is not in line with legitimacy. One cannot cede what is legitimate in return for what is not. When we talk about an agreement, we are talking about a comprehensive one that will include the boycott and other issues.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the idea of a confederation in light of King Husayn's recent refusal to conclude a confederation with the Palestinians? This statement prompted some to say that Husayn does not dare recognize a Palestinian state.

[Al-Surani] I believe that what King Husayn said is good and acceptable because a confederation should be concluded between two states. Any talk about a confederation before a Palestinian state actually exists is only a mere hope. A confederation is concluded when two states exist and after a plebiscite is held. A true confederation cannot be brought about by force. We coordinate totally with King Husayn on all issues.

[Al-Sa'id] It has been said that you have been the masters of the policy of rejection 1967 and that this has led to the deterioration of the Arab situation and has opened the way for the political misery in which we find ourselves.

[Al-Surani] I challenge anyone to show us any solution offered since 1967. No solutions have been offered. We have gotten used to turning military and political disappointments into psychological wars against each other and holding ourselves responsible for this recurring failure. I ask: Has any solution has been offered to us since the Balfour Declaration that did not weaken our dignity, sovereignty, territory, and freedom? A homeland is not divisible. I am amazed with those who say that every inch of Egyptian territory is sacred but refuse to let a Palestinian or a Syrian say the same thing about their territory. I say that every soil is sacred for its people.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe that the U.S.-sponsored peace talks can do anything positive?

[Al-Surani] They are the only possible hope at this time, a time when Soviet Union has disappeared, the Arab situation has been messed up, and the global balance has been lost. We are developing this U.S. position and the world is responding to us. It has now become clear that the PLO is represented by the delegation that meets the Israelis, the United States, and any other European and non-European country. The PLO is, for all intents and purposes, the one conducting the negotiations though the United States continues to say officially that it has stopped the dialogue with the organization. We will continue to develop the Arab, international, and U.S. positions. But we do not fear the time factor; they fear it. The more time passes, the more the Arab nation becomes convinced about the danger. All Arab people feel the danger and understand the nature of the danger when Israel declares that its territories lie between the Euphrates and the Nile Rivers.

Talks Moved to Washington for 'Political' Reasons

TA3007145292 Jerusalem AL FAJR in Arabic 30 Jul 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Rome—AL-FAJR has learned from reliable sources in Jerusalem that the U.S. claim that Rome is unprepared to host the upcoming round of Arab-Israeli negotiations slated in August is untrue.

These sources stressed that Rome is prepared to host the upcoming round of talks. The sources say that the

United States chose to change the talks' venue from Rome to Washington for political and electoral reasons.

The Americans selected Rome as the new venue for holding the bilateral talks due to the insistence of the Israelis during Shamir's era. The Israelis demanded the transfer of the talks from Washington, where they were convened until now, to a venue nearer to the Middle East. The United States, however, recently invited the Arabs and the Israelis to hold another round of talks in Washington, claiming that August is a vacation month in Italy and that Rome is not ready to host the talks. Both the Arabs and the Israelis agreed to meet again in Washington, most likely for the last time, before moving to Rome. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Parties View Higher State Committee Communique

LD2907122192 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Algiers, July 29 (APS)—The communique of the Higher State Committee (HCE) released on Sunday and defining "the criteria of dialogue with political organizations and associations" continue arousing reactions on the part of political parties.

Some parties considered this communique as "an evolution" of the HCE's position in order to concretize the principle of national reconciliation while others qualified it as "an interference in parties' activities".

The Union for Democracy and Liberties (UDL) voiced its satisfaction with the HCE's initiative to carry out dialogue and concertation with the political parties and considered it as "an evolution that will enable a clarification and reconciliation, first pace towards a global accord whose main and vital objective is the return to civil peace and national concord".

To UDL, national reconciliation means "the instoration [as received] of a real democracy which imperatively depends on the respect of pluralism [words indistinct], an independent justice [words indistinct], the resolution of daily problems of nationals and the fight against injustice under all its forms".

As to the Party of the Algerian Renewal (PRA), it released a communique on Tuesday in which it noted "the HCE made the opposite of its recent commitments to open a new era, to be above partisan competition and break up with all men and methods of the past". The HCE, through its last decisions and statements showed that it envisages to get deeply involved in partisan activities, that it did break with the near past only to better tie up with the 1960s and the 1970s.

To PRA, the communique added, "dialogue could not consist in redefining the foundations of the [words indistinct] nations but only in setting up new rules for a rapid return to popular legitimacy and democratic expression".

"The agenda of such a dialogue could comprise the following points: The neutrality of HCE, the government and the administration in political activities and competition, the non involvement of the National People's Army in the current ideological choices".

Moreover, there are also the fixation of an electoral deadline starting from presidential elections, the opening of television to debate, as well as the condemnation of violence to accede to power or to stay in it.

On its turn, the "Islamic Nahda" movement estimated that the "scientific and objective dialogue constitutes a necessary instrument for the settlement of disputes with the political opponents inviting to the definition of axes and rules of dialogue".

In a communique released yesterday, the movement reiterated its attachment to the principle of "the alternance [as received] of power, the respect of the people's will, the preservation of constants of the society, i.e., religion, unity, language, independence and the fundamental individual rights to freedom, legality and justice".

On another turn and in reaction to the HCE declaration, the group decided, at the end of a meeting held yesterday here following the evaluation of the political situation, the preparation of its national conference and the resumption of its political activity.

Leaders Comment

LD2907042192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Statements by Kasdi Marbah, leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, and 'Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic Nahda Movement; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Merbah] We were among the first to call for dialogue and for consultations. We called for dialogue and consultations at the start of the June 1991 crisis, which led to the state of siege. Our position has not changed. We have always asked for dialogue and consultations and even for the creation of a structure to organize this dialogue. We did that at the meeting between the parties and the government in July and August 1991. The platform is that of the group of seven, and the criteria fixed by the Higher State Council is the same.

Consequently, the question that is raised today is the subject of this dialogue. We have said for some time that this dialogue must be about preparing the transitional period. The dialogue and the consultations must be about this phase; in addition, they must focus on the structure that might follow up the implementation of the measures and the decisions that will be made through dialogue. This is our position on the recent statement made by the Higher State Council.

[Djaballah] In our opinion, we must avoid all statements and practices that aggravate the feeling of despair resulting from the absence of reconciliation and understanding and that are aimed at widening the scope of anarchy and problems. We also think we must turn to dialogue about the most important terms and measures likely to treat the existing illegality. This should proceed from the following convictions: to accept the principle of alternating power and to respect the will of the people, whatever it may be; to accept the principle of elections in deciding the principle of taking power and taking it in turn; to accept the principle of dialogue as an instrument for settling political disputes and rejecting all forms of

violence and oppression; to respect the firmly established principles of society on religion, unity, language, and independence and the basic rights of individuals to justice, freedom, and equality when the authorities pass laws and when these authorities and the opposition are engaged in politics.

The Islamic Nahda movement stresses its belief in a scientific, objective, and peaceful dialogue as an instrument for promoting its program and settling the disagreements with political opponents and rivals. It also stresses its commitment to the aforementioned convictions. Peace be upon you.

President Receives Workers Union Secretary

LD2807153292 Algiers APS in English 1022 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Algiers, 28/07/92 (APS)—At the end of the audience that the HCE [Higher Council of State] president, Ali Kafi, granted to the UGTA (Algerian Workers National Union) secretary general, Abdelhak Benhamouda declared that "discussions were centered on the situation in the country in general and had a political character".

Benhamouda indicated that "this meeting intervenes following a great number of changes among which the installation of the new government and the announcement by the HCE of the opening of dialogue with personalities, political organizations and associations".

Benhamouda added that it was question of the patriotic gathering as a national project and how to materialize this project through the mobilization of all the forces and citizens".

On another turn, Ali Kafi granted an audience to members of the National Secretariat of the National Organization of Sons of Chouhada (Martyrs), the organization secretary general, Tahar Ben Baibeche [name as received] made a declaration in which he indicated that "discussions focused the main questions which concern the country among which the project of patriotic gathering and the part of the organization in this crucial step".

Egypt

U.S. Urged To Use Restraint Regarding Iraq

NC3007130192 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 25 Jul 92 p 5

["Moment of Truth" column by 'Izzat al-Sa'dani: "Beating Drums of War"]

[Text] I hope we will not stand with our arms crossed gazing at events concerning the likelihood of a new military strike against Iraq after it refused to let the international inspection team enter the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry building. The issue is no longer a joke. U.S. President George Bush met his defense secretary to discuss the details of such a military strike, while four U.S. naval vessels prepared to intervene and participate in dealing a painful blow to Iraq. Clinton, the other presidential candidate, did not mind a military operation against Iraq.

We might disagree with Saddam Husayn. He has held the Iraqi people inside a bottle of political oppression and economic siege and continues to rule broken, besieged Iraq, despite having brought about this tragic fate on his country—a fate we would not have wished upon fraternal Iraq and its oppressed and broken people.

Although there is no possibility of offering advice to Saddam, he has never listened to a word, never mind a letter, of what we said, and although he still presses on with his stubborn course as he did during his quixotic Gulf war, the Iraqi people are not to blame. They lost over 100,000 people in the Gulf war. They have to endure starvation. They are now paying the price for the blood of their hearts, lost during the Gulf war. Why should the Iraqi people be held responsible if another military strike falls on their heads? No one can predict how many people will die, how much money, and how many facilities and services will be destroyed. It seems certain the Iraqi people are heading for days that are darker than widows' nights.

We Arabs should intervene and ask the Americans to practice greater restraint because they are the decision-makers, the ones threatening to start the battle, and the world's strongest power. The issue is in their hands, especially after the U.S. television network CNN said that the decision to go to war does not need a new Security Council resolution. We must tell the United States: Enough war and fighting in the Gulf; otherwise, there will be a massacre, the price of which the Iraqi people alone will pay.

The strange thing is that when preparations are under way to strike Iraq militarily, simply for not letting the inspection team enter the Agriculture Ministry building in Baghdad, the United States, France, Britain, and Germany are refusing to assume responsibility over the massacres in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They believe that Western military intervention cannot stop the bloodshed of Muslims; their blood is flowing in rivers over there.

Commentary Notes Abhorrence of Saddam's Rule

NC3107071892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Egypt's Firm Stand on Iraqi Ruler's Aggressive Practices"]

[Text] No two people in the entire Arab nation, with the exception of those who are benefiting from the continuation of the Iraqi ruler in power, would disagree that the Iraqi dictator has made mistakes and committed sins that have caused grave problems for both the Iraqi people and Army.

Even more dangerously, this ruler has begun begging for sympathy and support from any Arab capital to help him emerge from his isolation. He cannot emerge from his isolation, however, because the Iraqi people are angry that he brought about the disaster they are experiencing, and he tarnished the military's honor.

This ruler, who has learned nothing from his 2 August 1990 aggression against Kuwait, has engaged in mistaken practices. This month the foolhardy and reckless ruler launched an attack on Arab leaders, including the Egyptian leadership, based on his belief that he could distract the people to make them forget about their real problems.

The Iraqi people see these efforts as a continuation of the practices that led to their current isolation, imposed on them because of Saddam's aggression against a neighboring Arab country. Honest Arab regimes were opposed to this aggression and said they will not deal with this aggressive regime because it harms Arab solidarity and the Arab nation's moves to recover its legitimate rights. This has become their firm and unchanging policy.

This dictator recently ordered Iraqi media to highlight what he claimed was a warm Egyptian welcome of an official Iraqi delegation that recently visited Cairo. The truth of the matter is that because the Arab League Headquarters is situated in Cairo, Egypt cannot differentiate between Arab delegations. There is a big difference, however, between official delegations and those that represent Iraq at the Arab League.

Egypt does not and will not deal with those who represent this dictator and obey his orders. Nor is Egypt prepared to open its doors to those who serve the goals of aggression and implement hostile policies to which Egypt objects and stands against. Egypt maintained its position since 2 August 1990, when this Iraqi ruler betrayed the covenant and occupied an Arab country through aggression after he promised Arab leaders that he would not attack Kuwait. His crime of occupying Kuwait demonstrated that he is an immoral ruler whose promises cannot be trusted.

We reiterate that Egypt's reception of any delegation representing Iraq at the Arab League is a matter of diplomatic norms, which Egypt considers to be part of its basic principles. What is astonishing is the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY's report that Egyptian officials received an official Iraqi delegation with a warm welcome. This agency, which is one of Iraqi dictator's media of aggression, conveniently overlooked the fact that there is a difference between the reception of delegations participating in Arab League meetings and delegations that have no connection with the Arab League.

We tell the fraternal Iraqi people that by filing this report, the dictator's media are still misleading the people and perpetuating the Iraqi ruler's despotic, aggressive, and domineering role. This ruler still governs the people with iron and fire and is aggressive and intransigent. He is the one cause of the catastrophe that has afflicted the Iraqi people. Through his sinful practices, he forced the international community to continue the economic blockade, which only prolongs the harsh suffering of these fraternal people, who are waiting impatiently for the day of salvation from the dictator.

Egypt is committed to its word and policies. It is not two-faced; its policies are firm, frank, and public. When Egypt says that it will not deal or restore ties with this dictatorial ruler, it is standing on a foundation of right. Egypt's policy, from the beginning of the crisis of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, during the war to liberate Kuwait, and today, remains firm: No dealing and no cooperation with the ruling Iraqi dictator.

Rabin's Approach to Peace, Arab Positions Viewed

NC3007161492 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 27 Jul 92 pp 11-12

[Report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi]

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli summit was preceded by two hasty summits for the remaining three non-Palestinian Arab parties participating in the peace talks. A Syrian-Lebanese and a Syrian-Jordanian summit were held, which observers described as the summits of doubts. The three states declared their doubts and apprehension about Rabin's intentions, not only by neglecting negotiations with them, but by squandering their legitimate rights and striking the bases of the Madrid conference.

Syrian sources in Cairo told ROSE AL-YUSUF that Syria believes that Shamir's statements, by which he drowned Arab and international public opinion and led many to become optimistic, are nothing less than a bribe to the Arabs in the form of a limited five-year period of autonomy that will constitute an initial stage for constant cooperation. This move would begin with the peace process with the Palestinians; then they will talk to Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The same sources noted that Rabin is using the word "talk" rather than "negotiate" when he discusses Syria and Lebanon. He also avoids discussing the principle of land for peace on the basis of which the Madrid conference was convened—despite having talked about this principle a great deal during his election campaign.

But what are Rabin's projects when it comes to talks with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan?

As for Syria, Rabin is the first to have warned of the importance of the Syrian Golan Heights for Israel—strategically and from the security point of view—after they were occupied in 1967. He was then Israeli chief of staff. At that time, he described the Golan Heights as the key to war and peace. He pointed out that if Israel keeps the Golan, this would secure peace; if Israel loses the Golan, according to him, Israel would be threatened with war.

Rabin wants Syria to officially declare that it recognizes Israel and is ready to sign a peace treaty and normalize relations with it—as in the case with Egypt. This should take place before the negotiations to settle the Golan Heights problem, according to Israeli terminology, and not withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is something Syria vehemently rejects, according to Arab diplomatic sources, demanding an official pledge from Israel that it will withdraw from the Golan Heights before any discussion. The same sources affirm that Syria rejects normalization with Israel and the exchange of diplomatic representation with it, even if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights. Rabin knows this very well.

The same sources affirm that Israel has alternative projects if pressure is applied on it during the negotiations, foremost among which is returning various parts of the Golan Heights to Syria and keeping the rest within the framework of the security arrangements. Syria will never accept discussion of this.

Observers expect the Golan Heights to be the bomb that will threaten to blow the peace process apart at any time. They consider it the second complication after Jerusalem and they do not expect Rabin to hand back the Golan Heights across the peace table to Syria; he himself occupied the Heights through war.

Rabin links a settlement in Lebanon with the Syrian and Iranian presence represented in the Hizballah militias and with disarming the resistance. He has a dangerous plan that consists of three points:

Israel and Lebanon will sign a peace treaty within the framework of which the two countries will resolve all their problems, normalize relations between them, and exchange diplomatic representation.

Israel will withdraw from Jazzin, which is controlled by agent Lahd's army, in return for the Lebanese authorities successfully gathering light arms from the individuals and militias. This means that negotiations on implementing Resolution 425 have been exchanged with negotiations on the withdrawal from Jazzin as an introduction to solving the problem; this means diluting the Lebanese crisis.

The national resistance in the south will be disarmed and Syria will withdraw gradually from Lebanon in accordance with al-Ta'if. After that, new negotiations will begin, to reach understanding over the security arrangements that guarantee the security and safety of Israel's Galilee.

Lebanon, of course, rejects any incomplete projects and demands the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and Israel's withdrawal from the south. Then discussions could focus on the security arrangements, mutual relations, and other issues.

As for Jordan, Rabin wants to create a split in the positions of the four Arab parties participating in the peace talks, dragging Jordan into signing a separate peace treaty with Israel without making any progress in the talks with the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese.

Jordan has rejected this and declared its commitment not to sign any individual agreement with Israel, despite reports of secret talks between Jordan and Israel.

Jordan is very worried that the Labor Party will restore its project on the Jordanian option or the solution via Jordan. It is also worried that the Palestinian refugee problem will be spread by compensating them, settling them wherever they live, and integrating them in the countries in which they are living.

Jordan hosts a million Palestinian refugees, who have the right to return or get compensation. Israel controls the Jordan River and occupies Jordanian territory the size of the Gaza Strip, while Rabin is merely concerned about signing a peace treaty between Amman and Tel Aviv within the framework of which the special problems between the two countries are solved.

Damascus Meeting Said To Reassure Syria

NC3007151992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has described the recent Damascus meeting of foreign ministers of those Arab countries concerned with the Middle East peace talks as an important step on the road to crystallizing a united Arab position that adheres to firm principles and protects greater Arab interests.

In a commentary today, the paper said that this meeting ended Israeli efforts to keep Syria out of the first stage of bilateral negotiations on the pretext that they want to concentrate on the Palestine question, the core of the struggle. After that they could look into the issue of the occupied Golan Heights.

The paper clarified that the Damascus meeting was an opportunity for the Arab countries participating in the peace talks to declare their support for Syria and to remove any doubts the Syrian leadership may have had about the other Arab parties' positions. They confirmed that they will not enter any settlements without Syria, will adhere to the comprehensive solution, and will reject Israeli attempts to divide the problem.

Cairo Papers Criticize Libyan Press Comments

NC3107083392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—In their Friday editions, Egyptian newspapers comment on remarks published by Libya's AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR on Wednesday. The Libyan paper criticizes "ingrates and conspirators who see Israeli planes passing through their airspace and landing at their airports while, at the same time, ban

Libyan planes from doing the same thing and prevent their own planes from landing in Libya or using its airspace."

AL-AHRAM's editorial says: We would have preferred the Libyan newspaper to have been frank and clear instead of making furtive, indirect hints about "conspirators".

It adds that Egypt's relations with Israel are clear and forthright, adding that several Arab countries and parties are trying to achieve some of the results of the peace process Egypt began 15 years ago.

AL-AHRAM continues: The passage and landing of Libyan planes is a matter governed by UN resolutions. All member countries, notably Egypt, are committed to the UN Charter. This commitment means adherence to international legitimacy.

AL-AKHBAR calls AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR's article nonsense, noting that Egypt has dealt with the Libyan-Western crisis in a manner designed to find a peaceful solution, preserve Libya's security, dignity, and sovereignty and the Libyan people's interests. In spite of Egypt's efforts, it adds, there are people in Tripoli doing stupid things and taking cheap shots at those who support and protect them.

The paper adds that empty slogans and vile words no longer influence anyone, especially because everyone knows who is really doing all it can to obtain Palestinian rights. AL-AKHBAR calls the writer of the Libyan article the greatest of the ingrates, using Arab slogans as a commodity.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's chief editor writes an editorial on AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR's remarks, saying Egypt's pan-Arab responsibility and commitment to Arab causes and to current and future goals is not a mere favor. Egypt's efforts proceed from faith, conviction, and its policies and leaves no room for taunts.

He added that the landing, takeoff, and passage of Israeli planes is in line with an open accord and a peace agreement Egypt and Israel signed before the entire world. He says that Egypt, other Arabs, the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the whole world are trying to obtain similar agreements between Israel and the Arab countries and notes that this is being done in the open.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's chief editor concludes: Egypt's commitment to Libya and other Arabs is clear and open. It is a commitment based on reason and reliable promises not on recklessness and false claims.

Adherence to Constitution in Campaign Urged

NC3107093292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
24 Jul 92 p 7

[Article by 'Ali Salamah: "Why All This Furor?"]

[Excerpts] We have said before and will say again, that we will continue to state without hesitation or weariness that the ruling Egyptian regime is merely an extension of the totalitarian regime 'Abd-al-Nasir introduced following the 1952 military coup. It is an extension of that regime even if some things are called by different names.

Some people with an axe to grind have blamed us for saying this and criticized our ideas. That is irrelevant. We will continue on the same path until a real democracy becomes a fact in our homeland. Current events demonstrate the truth of our views and statements. This month, the national newspapers, notably AL-AHRAM, published banner headlines announcing numerous oaths of loyalty [mubaya'ah] to President Mubarak, nominating him for a third presidential term. [passage omitted]

Swearing loyalty is not a part of democracy and is not recognized by the Egyptian Constitution, which we all have sworn to uphold. Swearing oaths is used in totalitarian regimes, such as that under which we lived in 'Abd-al-Nasir's time with the help of that regime's organizations, notably the National Liberation Rally, the National Union, and the Arab Socialist Union. At that time, such proclamations of loyalty were carried out with a handshake in closed rooms on the instructions of various government agencies.

It is an unacceptable, offensive method whose time has passed. It is only used by clowns, hypocrites, and profiteers. It demeans the intellect, shows disrespect to nations, and is used by oppressed people. In short, only insignificant people are good at such demonstrations of hypocrisy that contravene human dignity.

Let us not regress. Our past humiliation is enough. Have you ever seen or heard of France, the United States, or other countries that have self-respect, notably democratic countries, swearing loyalty as a method of selecting a president?

Enough of this nonsense! Look around you and imitate your enemies. Does what happen in great Egypt happen in small Israel? [passage omitted]

Article 76 of the Constitution delineates how to nominate a presidential candidate. The People's Assembly makes the nomination and submits it to a popular referendum. A nomination is submitted if one-third of the Assembly agrees to it. Then, two-thirds of the Assembly have to approve it. A nominee who gets two-thirds of the Assembly votes is submitted to a popular referendum, and so on. This should all be done in line with the Constitution.

This shows that one-third of the People's Assembly members have the right to propose a candidate and two-thirds of the members have the right to nominate him. This must be done during a People's Assembly session.

This demonstrates that the oaths of loyalty in the newspapers or by other proclamations is contrary to text of the Constitution, which the rulers, ahead of the ruled, swore to respect. It is a form of political buffoonery that we must avoid. We in the opposition—the real majority—have often demanded amending the Constitution so that every Egyptian citizen who possesses the necessary qualifications to be an appointed member of the Consultative Council [as published] will have the right to run for president. We also demanded that the people elect a president by direct vote from among the five candidates who get most votes at the joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

O men of the National Democratic Party, this is the ideal way to select a president and the only truly democratic one.

Do not be hasty. What you are seeking will soon become reality with the help of the People's Assembly that your own regime created. It will take place amid a popular boycott of the elections and referenda to which the regime has customarily resorted after failing to close the serious gaps in the election law or clear the errors in its election lists. It will take place by filling the referendum ballots even when the voters do not show up. These methods are the best guarantee of reelecting President Mubarak to a third term.

Be sure that your regime is staying and the president is staying so long as the election law is not amended. [passage omitted]

'Dissident' al-Jihad Member on Group's Methods

NC3007133592 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 27 Jul 92 pp 4, 5

[Report on an interview with an unidentified "prominent 30-year-old dissident leader of al-Jihad military organization in Dayrut" by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad; place and date not given]

[Text] He returned to Dayrut after failing to make any money in Iraq (after the invasion of Kuwait). A few days later he found out that he would remain jobless for a long time—unemployment was rampant and he could not read or write. But the young man noticed that the Islamic group in Dayrut was making huge profits through its wide trade in currency.

One day he had a bitter fight with an organization member over currency prices. To contain him, win him over, and suppress his mutinous ideas, they allowed him into the group, but without permitting him to let on that he was a member. He would not grow a beard nor frequent their mosques, but he would be supplied with the necessary money and weapons.

The dreadful quartet had already been formed and its influence was spreading. Its members are Jamal Haridi, who formed the military wing; Jamal Zaki al-Abi, the leader of the group (he called himself the leader of leaders); Ahmad Zaki, group leader in the village of Masarah; and 'Arafah Darwish, group leader in Sanabu (he was later dismissed and replaced by Mahmud Abu-al-'Ula).

The dreadful quartet decided to set up "death squads" comprising individuals able to carry out operations, disappear inside the society, and guarantee secrecy. These individuals would ostensibly distance themselves from the group, leading a normal daily life so that they would not cause any security concern. Most of them were jobless and one was this active member, who continues to tell the story to which we listen:

Once the individuals are selected they are sent to 'Arafah Darwish, a very influential figure with moral influence on the group's members and having the ability to convince them that Islamic law demands Islamic group activity and that to die performing this activity is to be a martyr for God's cause. The chosen person remains near 'Arafah Darwish to ensure his commitment. He is asked not to grow a beard and must convince his family and relatives that he has nothing to do with the Islamic group and its activities so that he will not be discovered when military operations are carried out.

The man in charge of the next phase is Jamal Haridi, a former reserve officer. He trains these individuals in the use of arms, first determining their number and ability and then choosing regions for training, which includes theoretical and practical lessons.

The theoretical training is given in gardens in Sanabu and Masarah. The owners have shown sympathy with and assisted organization members. In this second stage, members hear lengthy lectures on how to use arms, how to choose the right time for operations, and how to escape quickly from the scene of a crime.

Practical training is given in the mountains near the two villages. This is an important place for organization members; they learn how to take apart and assemble weapons and how to ride motorcycles. They are also given detailed explanations of maps and receive fitness training and karate and kung fu lessons. This training takes more than three weeks.

Ahmad Zaki, the group leader in Masarah, then takes over. His vital task is to buy weapons and ammunition and to ensure their delivery to members of the organization and selected groups.

The former member continues his testimony, stressing that Masarah's work is vital to the organization, the main center for gathering information for its leaders.

There are reports that a number of local politicians and wealthy people have joined these groups, giving them necessary funds and helping them to hide in their fields. One of the sons of the village leader hid organization members in his garden after a military operation. He also helped them to collect security information on police movements.

Village residents are very capable of smuggling and trading arms. Masarah is considered one of the largest trading villages—even trading in contraband—in the Dayrut area.

ROSE AL-YUSUF's source adds that Jamal Zaki al-Abi, the group leader in Dayrut, is the organization's primary operator. The source says: I even worked for a short time as a secret informer directly under Jamal Zaki. I used to report to him directly, but I was replaced; this takes place from time to time to avoid detection.

The source says the planning of the recent Dayrut incidents took place two weeks before in Masarah. Small "death squads" were formed, a name chosen to implement the principle of "martyrdom or victory." Each squad consisted of three people and none of the squads knew each other. Even those in the same squad did not meet each other until a few days before they were due to carry out the operation. They came from different places and were unknown members of the organization with a low profile.

After they were supplied with sufficient weapons and ammunition, the squad's members were ready to carry out the planned operations. Members were tested for their ability to carry out operations quickly and to escape from the scene of a crime, practiced on minor operations, such as the destruction of a shop selling alcoholic beverages. This determined their ability to carry out more serious operations.

Eyewitnesses had difficulty identifying the perpetrators. Several Islamic group members working abroad were used in these operations, making it possible for them to carry out the operation and get out of the country after booking their tickets a few days beforehand. They all fled.

The source said: Financing takes place with the knowledge of group leaders. They spend lavishly on the organization. We know only very little about the source of these funds, money collected from group members, a nominal membership fee not exceeding five pounds per person per month, or money collected from wealthy people in the village. All this is just a small part of the funds donated to the organization by unknown sources. When I tried to ask about it, they told me: This is not your responsibility. You just listen and obey.

The danger of the death squads became very clear in Dayrut following Jamal Huraydi's arrest. Each squad started acting independently without getting orders from the group leader.

The continuing danger of these squads became apparent in the past few days, following the shooting in Dayrit's Anglican church; two soldiers were killed and their weapons seized, and a soldier guarding a pedestrian crossing in Dayrut was killed and his weapons were seized. None of the culprits in the two incidents was arrested, which confirms the danger and speed with which these squads operate.

The testimony ended. The file will remain open.

Libya

Paper Calls West 'Friend,' Urges Closer Ties

NC2907173992 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Nicosia, July 29 (AFP)—A Libyan Government newspaper Wednesday brushed aside Tripoli's strained ties with the West, calling for better relations between the two sides and describing the West as a "friend."

"It is imperative to settle differences (with the West) in a bid to build together a bright future," said AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, the mouthpiece of Libya's revolutionary committees.

"The West is no longer an eternal enemy (?but a) friend who is searching for stability and privileged ties to preserve his interests, just like us," it added.

It said that Libya and the West—which has imposed an air traffic, arms and diplomatic embargo against Tripoli since April over the bombing of civilian planes—were the "victims of incomprehension."

It accused unidentified "mediators" of "deforming the image" of Libya and the West and said "direct contacts" were necessary to improve bilateral ties.

But the daily did not identify the countries in the West it was referring to.

Washington and London accuse Libya of supporting international terrorism and are demanding the extradition of two Libyan nationals in connection with the 1988 downing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland.

France wants to question four other Libyans in connection with the 1989 bombing of a French UTA plane over Niger.

The two attacks left 440 people dead.

Following Libya's refusal to comply with the requests, the U.N. Security Council issued sanctions against Tripoli and is expected to review them in August.

Calls for Closer Ties Criticized

LD3007170592 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 30 Jul 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH" newpsaper today published an article under the heading "A Dubious Appeal and Senseless Words" written by 'Abd al-Nasir Hamid in response to a previous article published by the "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH" titled "Let's Negotiate With the West and the United States". The article went as follows:

The natural person has freedom to express himself even if, when he is mad, he behaves irrationally to express his madness, yet he only represents himself...I don't know how this newspaper can be brought out, and I don't know which slippery path we are following nor which shams are being concocted. Nor do I know which madmen are making a mockery of things in our newspapers.

Thus, with the stroke of a pen, stances are dealt a blow, as well as principles and values. In addition, dirt conceals a history replete with national struggle and the crazy ones appealing for regionalism, with strong lungs bursting with their discordant symphonies.

It is the crazy ones cannot be the sole ones to be castigated. However, madness is an individual characteristic and one cannot blame the entire newspaper for the actions of one its' staff and say that it is a crazy newspaper. Insanity is an individual state which can be attributed to the one named Muhammad al-Mirghani and others who wrote articles along the same lines of appeals to negotiate with the West and the United States.

The freedom of expression which this "Green" writer wrote emphasised cannot possible be justification for distorting the truth and to strike at reality and its' end results.

The writer of the article ended: "If we examine the article fully we will discover that the writer sidetracked the correct path considerably, he wrote without literary obligation or respect for any values, and he wrote without being able to convince anyone of his point despite purportedly offering all manners of proof and evidence.

"Even despite the fact that the Arab countries have not adopted the same decisive, victory-inspired, rejectionist stances as the Libyans, Muhammad al-Mirghani and others have painted the Middle Eastern countries as wheelers and dealers and other expressions which are not fit to be published in a newspaper such as the 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH'. Yet I wonder which Middle Eastern countries the writer meant in using such terms.

I hope that this person did not mean Lebanon, which suffered and continues to suffer and has not yet healed its' wounds. For its land is occupied, and it seems impossible that it will be freed. Still the Lebanese are struggling to have their remaining ravished lands returned to them. Indeed, for the above mentioned person's information, Lebanon is a Middle Eastern country whose suffering might lead it to endure a great thirst as a result of the continuous stealing of its waters and rivers.

The above mentioned writer and his like can only be insane if he is describing Israel which definitely lies in the heart of the Middle East. He definitely is crazy if he's talking about the Hebrew state, our enemy, which is still preparing itself to kill us and annihilate us. We wonder if he's implying Iraq whose forces were scattered and destroyed until they endured the utmost humiliation. Which Middle Eastern countries are left to be accused by those who are suspect of wheeling and dealing.

However, if you're not implying the above mentioned countries, it is definite that you don't imply Egypt which is above having to pay attention to such trivia. For neither you nor anyone else can deny Egypt's efforts, its' role and its' endeavors to solve the crisis between us and the West.

The writer continued, saying: "Egypt, with all its' history replete with struggle, has declared its allegiance to us, working with us to overcome the crisis, according to its' duty, using all its' expertise in political maneuvering and diplomacy. Indeed, we think it is suitable to highly commend Egypt's efforts and its' eforts to solve the crisis.

Muhammed al-Mirghani, and other highly suspect persons, have erred. Indeed, he does even know to whom should he apportion the blame. Indeed, if anyone wishes to blame the Libyans then it is best to blame those who bind themselves with them in unions.

Indeed, one can specifically the Arab Maghreb Union which scoffed them and didn't pay heed to any of their vows or charters. It seems that the afore mentioned person has used the pages of the newspaper to propogate a stance for other ends, while disguising it in so-called support for the Libyans.

Thus, it is important for the reader of this newspaper to be aware of this name. The writer, Muhammed al-Mirghani is himself from a Middle Eastern country and that there is a difference between his government and the other Middle Eastern countries which the writer alluded to in his article. Thus, I would like to make my point for the record, a point I am confident of, I am speaking to the writer who has attempted to promote regionalism and fragmentation and has tried to make the river flow against its' current, claiming that there was no problem with us or the West, while forgetting certain things.

You, oh dubious person, and other suspect characters, it was the United States which was responsible for our suffering and it is the United States which produced various types of bombs so that our enemy could use. So this enemy kills our children, our elderly and our women and humiliates us day and night. Indeed, the United States wants to keep us out of history altogether. The United States tries to impose its' dominance over everyone and everything. Thus, we wonder if the "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH" newspaper will continue to give space to such hoarse voices... [ellipses as received]

Daily Criticizes UN Actions Against Iraq

LD3007190592 Tripoli JANA in English 1455 GMT 30 Jul 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH" newspaper today published an article by Muhammad 'Umran, under the title "Tomorrow Bedrooms Will Be Searched" in which he spoke about how the situation had become unbearable, that things had reached the level of suffocation, and had become far beyond the boundaries of logic saying that events in Iraq had reached the extent of the greatest affront after the United Nations inspection team had been allowed to search.

'Umran said "today, the Agricultural Ministry, tomorrow the Ministry of Industry and after tomorrow it will be our bedrooms. Iraq's population is 20 million, so imagine what would happen if 2 million martyrs sacrificed their lives for the sake of defending against injustice, for putting an end to this violation of its' sovereignty and this submission it has been forced into.

Is this submission to be the fate of the Arabs alone, for them to be humiliated to this extent and in such a manner where not even the slightest form of human values or justice prevails between countries?

Israel, which has the most sophisticated of destructive weapons and nuclear warheads, whose range is 4000 miles is not subjected to any form of intervention. Why didn't anyone intervene when the Israelis were breaking the arms and legs of Palestinians? Why haven't the United States or the West done anything to implement the 49 resolutions which were adopted against the Israelis and why weren't they applied, or why weren't they even mentioned in international forums?

Is it because the Arabs are animals and the Israelis are humans? Indeed it is a strange discrimination. The Arabs are able to defend against injustice given that they are a mass concentration of people which cannot be minimized, and which amount to 200 million people. Thus, what would happen if millions of martyrs offered themselves to balance the scale of injustice and to put an end to this Western tyranny which wants to destroy all the Arabs and to strip them even of their knives?

The writer continued: "We wonder what all this insistence is about to destroy Iraq? Does Iraq have lethal weapons which the West is afraid to be spread throughout the world out of concern for the safety of mankind? Did Iraq carry out a world war for it to be targeted in such a manner? In fact, all weapons of mass destruction are of Western [word indistinct]. Even the AIDS disease is a Western invention which they exported to the world, in addition it is they who destroyed the environment and created the hole in the ozone layer.

You, Oh West, are intending to create turmoil and we have to prevent you, it is you who are responsible for destruction in the world and for its' annihilation. You even ruined the earth and the skies with your Star Wars programme. Indeed, the new world system cannot be brought about at the expense of peaceful mankind. Furthermore the Arabs, and particularly Iraq, cannot be the victims of this new world system which you are trying to bring about.

In essence, it is Western material values which ruined the world and it will completely destroy it. However, from the great East, solutions will be forthcoming, great things will be forthcoming to rid the world of such destruction, indeed, you have the Green Book as a guide to freedom and emancipation.

Morocco

Libyan Diplomat Hands King al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD2807144292 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Meknes, Jul 28 (MAP)—King Hassan II met Monday at the Meknes City Hall Muhammed Abu al-Qasem Zawawi, resident secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiryah in Morocco.

The diplomat handed the sovereign a message from head of the Libyan Revolution, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets Filali in Rabat

LD2807172792 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Abdellatif Filali, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, received at the headquarters of the ministry this morning Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Al-Sabah arrived in Rabat yesterday afternoon with a message from the emir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al Ahmad al-Sabah, for His Majesty King Hassan II.

The talks between the two sides dealt with the best means to strengthen relations between the two countries and intensify and widen bilateral cooperation in the various fields. In addition, they exchanged views on Arab issues and the situation in the Gulf, in light of the latest facts witnessed by the region, as well as on international issues of common interest. They discussed adopting unified stances on these issues. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Hassan

LD2807171292 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II—may God grant him victory—received at the Royal Palace in Ifrane this afternoon Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the state of Kuwait. This audience was attended by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Abdellatif Filali.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2907212192 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Salim Al-Sabah left Morocco this morning following a three-day visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious.

On leaving the lounge at Rabat-Sale Airport, he made the following statement: My meeting with brother Abdellatif was a meeting of brothers and colleagues. We discussed Moroccan-Kuwaiti relations, in the first instance, Moroccan-Kuwaiti and Arab relations, and Moroccan-Kuwaiti and international relations; I could almost say unifying stands [passage indistinct].

As you know, Morocco is a member of the Security Council, representing Kuwait and other Arab states, which is a source of pride for the Arab world. The Arab stand must be unified and coordinated by whoever is representing it at any international body; Morocco happens to be at the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Filali, Spanish Foreign Minister Hold Talks

LD2907212292 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Moroccan-Spanish talks started in Rabat this evening at a working session held by the heads of diplomacy of the two countries. The talks between the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, and his Spanish counterpart, Javier Solana, covered the means to develop strong relations between Morocco and Spain in various fields and to strengthen them in order to serve the interests of the two countries. The two sides also discussed several regional and international issues. [passage omitted]

Solana Meets With King Hassan

LD2907213692 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] We now look at the first results of a visit: Today, Wednesday, Minister of Foreign Affairs Javier Solana had a meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco in Fes. This is his first visit to the Kingdom. At the meeting, described by Solana as very cordial, they discussed a range of bilateral matters which should now become more specific at his second meeting, this time with his opposite number Abdellatif Filali. Immigration, economic cooperation, the fulfillment of the bilateral treaty, and the Community's attitude toward Rabat were the central points of this meeting today between neighbors. A report on this from the RNE special correspondent in Casablanca, Rosa Jimenez:

This first official visit by Javier Solana as minister of foreign affairs reaffirms the priority which the Maghreb in general and Morocco in particular have for Spanish foreign policy, and this was acknowledged by our foreign minister at his brief meeting with journalists barely half an hour ago when he arrived at Rabat airport from Ifrane, the place where the king of Morocco's summer residence is situated and where he met the king. This was a long and cordial meeting, in the opinion of Javier Solana:

[Begin Solana recording] From my point of view, it was a very satisfactory meeting, extremely agreeable, extremely satisfactory. His Majesty asked me to convey his best wishes to our king, the king of Spain, to the prime minister and to the previous Minister of Foreign Affairs, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez. [end recording]

A review of the international situation and bilateral relations in general formed the content of the meeting, subjects which Javier Solana will almost certainly discuss in greater depth with his Moroccan opposite number, Abdellatif Filali, whom he is meeting at the moment. He had the opportunity to go over the agenda with Filali at the luncheon which followed his meeting with the king. From this brief meeting Solana highlighted the intensive nature of our relations; he said that there is a desire to extend the financial agreement dating from 1988 so that its conclusion will not stop the flow of mutual investments.

As we said, at the moment the meeting is taking place between the ministers of foreign affairs and the delegations from the two countries. That is all for the moment.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Accuses West of Attacking Islamists

EA3107103592 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jul (SUNA)—The secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, has accused the governments of certain Islamic states in the region of inciting Western countries to attack the Islamists pointing out that such states are living a life of enslavement, humiliation, and dejection vis-a-vis the West. He made this statement in a broadcast published by AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH. His excellency said the Islamic movements were trying to adopt a global vision to perform their joint Islamic role.

Dr. al-Turabi went on to say that Western diplomats had assured him that the charges published by the Western media to the effect that he was behind Islamist and fundamentalist movements in the world were an official expression of the policy of Western governments. He said the West had been inclined to believe that if the recent assassination attempt against him in Canada had succeeded, it would have led to the collapse of the international Islamic movement. He pointed out in this respect that there were too many Islamists to be affected by one individual.

Dr. al-Turabi will address a rally on 31 July organized by the general secretariat of the Arab and Islamic People's

Congress. He will touch on the attack against him in Canada towards the end of last May.

Decrees Issued on Appointments, Cabinet Reshuffle

EA3107102592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Decrees of the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC]:

In the name of God, the people, and the Armed Forces. The chairman of the NSRCC, having noted Article 31b of constitutional Decree Number 3 of 1989 as amended in 1991, and Article 16 of constitutional Decree Number 4 of 1991, has issued the following decree:

Decree Number 329 of 1992 on the dismissal of ministers and a state governor:

The following gentlemen are relieved of their posts, as specified hereafter: Father George [Lungwoko] Kinga, minister of labor and social security; Mr. Natali Pancrasio [Yanku Ambu], minister of coordination of states' affairs, and; Lieutenant Colonel Galwak Deng [Garang], governor of Upper Nile State.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC
[Dated] 30 July 1992

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Decrees of the NSRCC chairman:

In the name of God, the people, and the Armed Forces. The chairman of the NSRCC, having noted Article 31b of constitutional Decree Number 3 of 1989 as amended in 1991, has issued the following decree:

Decree Number 330 of 1992 on the appointment of ministers:

The following gentlemen appointed to posts as specified hereafter: Major General Dominic Kassiano, minister of labor and social security; Lieutenant Colonel Galwak Deng [Garang], minister of coordination of states' affairs; Archbishop Gogrial (Roreg), minister of state at the Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Sapana Ibrahim Jambo, minister of state for local cooperation at the Finance Ministry.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC
[Dated] 30 July 1992

Paper Details Iranian Military Assistance

NC3007165492 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 29 Jul 92 pp 22, 23

[Article by Yusuf al-Sharif: "Torit's Liberation Will Not End the Rebellion in Southern Sudan"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In order to score victories in the south, the Sudanese Army needs endless supplies of weapons. It needs advanced weapons to outgun the rebels and wreck their positions in aerial and ground attacks. The Sudanese budget, however, is burdened with approximately $14 billion in foreign debt. Iran's offer to provide Sudan with weapons, supplies, and training free of charge is risky. Iranian assistance led to an escalation of the fighting in the south and undermined efforts to find a peaceful, political, and democratic solution of the problem. Iranian intervention also evoked Islam in a way that could worsen rather than heal the country's national divisions.

It goes without saying that the price will take the form of treaties and a political alliance between Sudan and Iran. The latter wishes to spread its Islamic revolution and consolidate its influence and interests in the Horn of Africa.

According to diplomatic and press reports in both Tehran and Khartoum concerning this deal, Iranian military assistance to Sudan takes place in two ways:

First, Iran supplies Sudan with weapons from the Iranian Army's arsenal, with the exception of Chinese surface-to-surface missiles, and provides military training in various forms.

Second, Iran provides 18 million pounds sterling from its own military budget to finance Sudan's purchase of Chinese and South Korean weapons. Iran also supplies Sudan's oil needs for military and civilian consumption, a total of 700,000 tons [timeframe not specified], financed by interest-free, long-term loans.

In return, Sudan is known to have promised to let the Iranian fleet [al-ustul al-bahri al-irani] use the harbor facilities at Port Sudan for a 25-year renewable period. Iran has also been allowed to establish a station for communications and aerial and maritime monitoring [mahatah li al-ittisalat wa al-rasd al-jawwi wa al-bahari]. [passage omitted]

Government Ready for Second Round of Talks

EA2907200092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, the official spokesman of the government's delegation that recently met with the rebel movement at the Abuja talks, has confirmed that the government is ready to hold the second round of negotiations and is now awaiting a reply from the rebels. He said a Nigerian envoy who recently visited the country was told this.

His excellency explained that the rebel movement is still suffering from division within its ranks and is not yet united, despite statements on agreements being reached between its two wings. On the other hand, Dr. 'Ali al-Haj affirmed that the decision of Lieutenant General al-Bashir to release those sentenced for crimes against the

state and to reduce the sentences of others is a result of the revolution's victories and a new page in its history.

He said the opportunity is now being offered to those who have been talking about human rights and practicing opposition from outside, to return to Sudan, particularly after the revolution has given them the opportunity of a general amnesty and provided adequate guarantees in the trials which are taking place in connection with state security crimes.

He added that the states that are talking about human rights in Sudan disregard what the rebel movement is doing; namely, detaining more than 30,000 children, in addition to using citizens as a human shields and torturing its prisoners.

Tunisia

Portuguese Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2707210592 Lisbon RDP Internacional in Portuguese 1800 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Portuguese Defense Minister Fernando Nogueira started a five-day visit to Tunisia today aimed at developing defense cooperation between the two countries. Bilateral cooperation agreements, mainly concerning training and education of military personnel, are expected to be signed by Fernando Nogueira and his Tunisian counterpart, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia.

Tunisia is particularly interested in Portuguese naval knowledge. Portugal may make available to Tunisia its technical and scientific experience in the hydographic field and other ocean sciences, apart from areas related to cartography and maritime [word indistinct].

The political situation in the Maghreb will be another area to be discussed between the defense ministers. Fernando Nogueira will explain to his Tunisian counterpart how the EC views the five countries of the region and in particular the fragile Tunisian democracy.

Received by President

LD2807190392 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at Carthage Palace the Portuguese Defense Minister Mr. Fernando Nogueira, in the presence of Mr. Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, minister of national defense, and the Portuguese ambassador to Tunis.

Following the audience, the Portuguese minister said that his meeting with the president was an opportunity to review the good historical relations between Tunisia and Portugal and also a means of consolidating them in the interest of the two countries and for the sake of international peace.

He indicated that peace and stability in the world, and in the Mediterranean basin in particular, require close cooperation between countries of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. He went on to add that Tunisia, being attached to peace and being a country of peace and stability, represents an example of that cooperation.

Having recalled the Portuguese premier's visit to Tunisia and his meeting with the president, Mr. Nogueira reiterated the two countries' determination to further boost relations of cooperation in various fields such as military cadre training and the exchange of skills and expertise.

Bahrain

Military Cooperation Agreement Signed With UK

JN2807155592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Manama, 28 Jul (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the State of Bahrain, received here today Eric Jenkinson [name as received], UK charge d'affaires to the State of Bahrain.

During the meeting, they signed a joint agreement on military cooperation between the Bahraini and the UK Ministries of Defense. They also discussed ways of promoting military cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Denies Charge of Flooding Market

LD2607195792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 26 July 1992,(SPA)— Hisham Muhyi Al-Din Nazir, minister of oil and mineral resources, has said the statement by Iraq Oil Minister Usamah Al-Hiti to REUTER that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is flooding the market and driving prices down did not agree with information coming from the market itself. His Excellency added in a statement to SPA that the firming of prices or the increase in prices since April indicates a balance between demand and supply, not an increase in output, as the median price for a barrel rose from $16.51 in March to $20.19 in June, a matter which refutes the Iraqi minister's claim.

Minister Nazir said that this is one of many times in which the Iraqi minister has spoken without restraint. He said that the Kingdom had nothing to hide or fear, as it declares and implements it positions openly and without fear.

Saddam Warned To Expect 'Deterrent Punishment'

PM3107091692 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Its Time to End Saddam's Game"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi regime is still dithering and persisting in its deception regarding the UN resolutions. By so doing it thinks it can continue to play that game for ever, not realizing—as it failed to realize at the time of the Gulf war—that playing with fire will only result in a catastrophe and that it will have to pay the price again. Whatever the Baghdad madman's thoughts, convictions, or calculations—which are always miscalculations—he must in the end realize that the world has changed and that the wrongdoings of children who by accident become leaders of their people must be met with deterrent punishment. [passage omitted]

The time has come for the world to end Saddam's stupid game so that the region can find stability and so that the world can tackle its other numerous problems, the foremost of these being the Bosnia-Hercegovina tragedy. Perhaps there is one positive side to what Saddam is doing now, insofar as he is convicing the whole world that dialogue with dictators is futile, that peaceful persuasion is not one of the things that will apply to such fascist structures as those of Saddam and his ilk, and that there is only one cure for the abscesses which appear on the face of humanity from time to time—namely, that they be excised and cauterized.

Ivorian Minister Visits; Envoy Exchange Planned

AB2807192092 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 25-26 Jul 92 p 23

[Text] After his Kuwaiti visit, which was part of his trip to the Gulf countries, foreign Minister Amara Essy arrived in Saudi Arabia on 23 July. He was immediately received by Prince Faysal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia.

At the end of their meeting, the two ministers agreed to exchange ambassadors between the two countries in the near future.

Yemen

Foreign Minister on Border Talks With Saudis

JN3007185392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has said that the Republic of Yemen wishes to hold a second round of negotiations on the border issue with Saudi Arabia in mid-September in either Sanaa or Riyadh.

He pointed out that Yemeni negotiations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were conducted on the basis of solid foundations of international law, in light of legal and historical rights that govern border talks between any two countries, without any preconditions being set.

The foreign minister announced that all arrangements to sign the border agreement between our country and the Sultanate of Oman have been finalized, and that 98 percent of the work on paper and on the ground has been finished. What is left now is only a meeting for legal experts from both countries to verify the accuracy of the draft agreement held by the two parties.

These remarks were made at a press conference held by the foreign minister at noon today at the Foreign Ministry. The conference was attended by local, Arab, and world media correspondents.

Spokesman on UN Inspections, Statements

JN3007172992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1629 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—After a team of experts that entered the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry on 28 and 29 July failed to find a trace of what it alleged was concealed inside, the chairman of the [UN] Special Commission and the chief expert made statements in Baghdad and Bahrain to the effect that the experts did not find any material directly related to Resolution 687, as they put it. However, the chief expert added: But, there are points that need to be studied by the team of experts.

Furthermore, statements were made in Bahrain and New York with a view to creating a climate of mystery and doubt to support claims that things may have been moved from the ministry building before the team of experts arrived.

Reacting to these remarks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

These statements are a shoddy attempt to cover the trap set by U.S. intelligence services for the Special Commission by leaking to it misleading information about the presence of materials related to Resolution 687 inside the building, and trusting this American mission to Major Karen Jansen and inspector Mark Silver, both citizens of the United States.

Events prove that it was a U.S. game from start to finish. The team under Karen Jansen arrived at the ministry on 5 July and stayed there until 22 July. When Rolf Ekeus came to Baghdad, the deputy prime minister on 19 July suggested that the former choose experts from nonaligned or other nations, like India or the PRC, to enter and search the building. This was a gesture on the part of Iraq to demonstrate that there was nothing inside the building, but this led the Special Commission into thinking otherwise. Before that, Iraqi authorities had invited journalists and news agency and television reporters to enter the building, which they did on 5 July. The following day, on 6 July, the heads of diplomatic missions in Baghdad were also invited to visit the building. They did so while the inspection team was still staging a 24-hour vigil outside the ministry compound. These Iraqi initiatives proved Iraq's case that there were no materials inside the building that had anything to do with Resolution 687.

When Ekeus returned to New York, a new stage began looking for an appropriate solution to the problem. To contain the scandal that was expected to break out when a solution was reached regarding visiting the building, and when it was confirmed that the building housed no materials linked to Resolution 687—something which would reinforce Iraqi credibility—American national Mark Silver, who led the team after Major Karen Jansen's departure, was instructed to fabricate a story to the effect that the inspection team was facing dangers to justify withdrawing inspectors from outside the ministry compound. Mark Silver decided to withdraw the team without discussing the alleged dangers with Iraqi authorities. It is worth noting here that popular demonstrations protesting the U.S. conspiracy against Iraq had continued for several days without any members of the team claiming to have been threatened, since the team was actually not threatened and given that the masses were acting in a balanced manner. Also, Iraqi authorities took all necessary measures and precautions to ensure the team's safety. The problem of the team's safety was raised only when the search began between New York and Baghdad for a solution, and when the trap set by the CIA for the Special Commission was about to be uncovered.

Twelve hours following the team's withdrawal from the ministry's premises on 22 July, Mark Silver contacted Iraqi authorities and asked to return. He was told that such an act was his own business, since he was the one who made the decision to withdraw in the first place and he is the one to decide if he wants to return. The leader of the team, however, began to cite a false argument about the issue of security. Iraqi officials told him that security requirements were available even before the team's withdrawal and that Iraq was fully responsible for the security of teams working inside Iraq. The team, however, did not return to its previous location at the ministry and instead left for Bahrain on 24 July, after contacts between New York and Baghdad to deal with the issue began to achieve some progress.

It was very clear that withdrawing the team from the ministry's premises, and its subsequent departure for Bahrain, were both steps aimed at justifying the climate of mystery and doubts shrouding allegations that materials and documents were moved from the building, so that the Special Commission experts would find nothing when they entered the ministry later.

The spokesman said: The building had remained under remote scrutiny by inspectors of the Special Commission just as before, something the commission's officers emphasized at the time.

This was not the first time that Special Commission experts have made unannounced or planned visits to locations in Iraq where they have subsequently found nothing. Over the past seven months, inspection teams have made approximately 200 visits, of which more than half were unannounced and numerous others were conducted with the use of helicopters. Inspectors have found nothing they were looking for at any of these locations.

The spokesman added: This game was conceived by U.S. intelligence to advance George Bush's reelection campaign.

Commenting on statements attributed to Ekeus that Iraq had promised, in his words, to open a new chapter of full cooperation [with the United Nations], the spokesman said the Baghdad talks had centered on the modus operandi and composition of the inspection teams. At his talks with Iraqi officials, the spokesman pointed out, Ekeus emphasized that he would direct the teams to show deep concern and consideration for national sovereignty, dignity, and internal security—factors that Iraq

had insisted upon often enough in the past. The Iraqi side viewed these assurances in a positive light.

Talks also addressed the fact that Iraq had fulfilled its obligations under Resolution 687. Iraq requested that the Special Commission chairman note this fact before the UN Security Council, especially given that he had stated verbatim in New York that Iraq has honored the bulk of these obligations.

'Irrefutable Evidence'—Kuwait Part of Iraq

JN3007162492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—A history researcher—drawing upon documents, geographical sources, and irrefutable evidence—has established that Kuwait is part of Iraq.

In an interview published by AL-THAWRAH daily today, Dr. Najah 'Abbud Husayn, director general of the Marine Science Center in al- Basrah, adds that the British colonialist authorities had British military officers contrive borders between Iraq and Kuwait that were far from being based on any natural barriers.

He noted that Bubiyan Island's topography is (?different) from that of the other Arabian Gulf islands. [passage indistinct]

Reportage: Media, Officials Attack U.S. Actions

U.S. 'Provocative' Behavior in Gulf

JN3107083792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the U.S. Administration's provocative military behavior in the Arabian Gulf.

The newspaper, which reflects the views of the Defense Ministry, has described the U.S. military naval exercises that will be carried out in Kuwait on Monday as an act of muscle-flexing, a provocation, and a display of unilateral hegemony over the world.

The newspaper sarcastically notes U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney's statement to the effect that the exercises do not seek to create a feeling of crisis nor do they anticipate a certain military action.

Last Tuesday, Cheney tried to conceal the current military movements. He denied the information that has leaked out about the U.S. Administration's movement of large forces toward the Gulf.

It is worth noting that Washington has revealed part of the schedule for these exercises. It has stated that two joint exercises, lasting for three weeks, will be carried out with Kuwait. One of these exercises will involve a sea landing of troops. The other involves the landing of military equipment from cargo ships.

On the pretext of these exercises, the United States has sent to Kuwait anti-missile Patriot batteries, the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, and 11 warships to join 40 other U.S. warships, including two aircraft carries.

Bush Assailed as 'Killer of Children'

JN2907204592 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Jul 92 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, press secretary to President Saddam Husayn: "Farewell to the World"]

[Text] There is no struggler for freedom other than George Bush; there is no defender of the principles of international law other than George Bush; and there is no guardian of justice on this planet, which is running its course for a period determined or not determined, other than the United States.

There is no mujahid defending Islam other than the American vagabonds—the descendants of prostitutes, and prisoners, whom the European police caught with a pair of pliers and threw to the new world, America, to rid them of evils in Europe at that time.

After beseeching God to forgive me, I would ask: After this, is there anything in the world worth living for?

A tribal chieftain in the south was asked during the spread of communism in Iraq: Why do you not stop crying? The man answered: I thought that God would take my life either in [King] Faysal's era or [King] Ghazi's era, instead of keeping me alive until the time of Huti Abu-al-Sifun, a vagabond who was appointed by communism as a leader of the popular resistance.

Although I am playing in the injury time, in terms of age, as soccer players say, I had not wished to have so long a life as to see George Bush give human rights as alms and call for democracy at the order of the dollar.

You then can imagine the criminal, the killer of women and children in al-'Amiriyah shelter, the destroyer of al-Fallujah market on top of the heads of the shopkeepers, the one who bombed al-Samawah bridge while people were crossing it, the one who burned crops in Rabi'ah Island [placename as published], the scoundrel who armed the Zionists to kill the stone-throwing children, the kidnapper of Noriega in Panama by tyrant forces, the creator of bloody sedition in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the killer of children in Africa, the leader of a state that has burned farms and animals in southeast Asia, the inheritor of Truman who dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the grandson of Yankees who killed the Red Indians, the owner of companies which are capitalizing on blood, AIDS, and Heroin.

Bush, and no one else, wants to apply a new law, which goes beyond the law of the jungle—the new law of the Patriot, which explodes water tanks, destroys power stations, demolishes schools and hospitals on top of their occupants.

This is the spiteful, the brutal, and the savage one. This is the one who will be cursed, along with his ancestors, until the day of judgment. He is the one who is attacking Iraq under the pretext of international legitimacy.

What kind of legitimacy is this, the conscience of which is killed, in which diseases are firmly settled, and whose claws have locked into the remaining good parts of this planet.

This is the anti-Christ, a charlatan, who wants to say he is the awaited Messiah. Is Doomsday approaching? Please tell me.

I beseech you by all that is pure and sacred—aside from milk, medicine, and pencils, of which George Bush has deprived your children—to tell me who is the savage one who has embodied all savagery, who is the villain who epitomizes all lowliness, who is appearing on scenes like a woman who repented after committing many sins and reminds you of the witches who appeared before Macbeth in Shakespeare's play?

Can it be anyone other than George Bush?

Fire your missiles, o cursed one; pour death from your huge planes; and send the Marines to descend upon us like locusts. This is an age in which people worship money. This is an age in which Jesus becomes a thief and Judas becomes a prophet. This is an age in which Jabir al-Sabah merits a statue and in which Lenin's statue is destroyed before the crowds. This is an age in which 'Abd-al- Nasir is abused and Fahd in praised.

May God have mercy upon Imam al-Husayn [son of caliph 'Ali Bin- Abi-Talib], who said: It is a misfortune for one to present the head of [prophet] Yahya Bin-Zakariya—John the Baptist—on a tray to a prostitute from Israel.

U.S. Airspace Violations Protested

JN3007123392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the violation of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. U-2 spy planes under the cover of carrying out aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

In a message to the UN secretary general yesterday, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said the U.S. espionage plane violated Iraqi airspace on 21 July coming from Saudi territory. Three and half hours later, the plane returned toward Saudi territory.

Ahmad Husayn said the same plane violated Iraqi airspace again on 25 July, coming from Saudi territory. It flew over [words indistinct] areas for three hours and 50 minutes then left Iraqi airspace toward its base in Saudi territory.

He said the U.S. U-2 spy plane violated Iraqi airspace on 27 July coming from its base in Saudi territory. It flew for three hours and 40 minutes over Baghdad then (?it returned to its base in Saudi Arabia). The foreign minister said these new violations by the U.S. plane [words indistinct] and stressed that this plane is used for purposes other than [words indistinct] Security Council, and that its activity undermines the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

Airways Blockade Termed 'Unjust Act'

JN3107085592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The director general of Iraqi Airways has asserted that intensive efforts are being exerted to lift the blockade imposed on Iraqi planes and civilian flights.

Nur-al-Din Safi accused the U.S. Administration and the British Government of arranging the blockade imposed on Iraqi air transportation. He said that UN Security Council Resolutions 661 and 670 do not explicitly provide for such a blockade. Washington and London, however, made the Sanctions Committee adopt that interpretation as part of their premeditated, unjust acts against Iraq in order to inflict the greatest harm upon it, he added.

Safi denied rumors that there is an intention to dissolve Iraqi Airways and to distribute its staff among government departments and institutions. He told the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH that the company will continue its work and will continue to honor its financial obligations toward its employees and technicians.

Minister Says Saudis Destabilizing Oil Market

JN2607082692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi official has asserted that Saudi Arabia is losing around $3 million daily by deliberately destabilizing the international oil market through flooding the market with produce that is strangling prices.

In a statement published by AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said that this Saudi policy was greatly contributing to reducing the returns of oil-producing countries, noting that oil was flowing from its national reservoirs to the strategic reserves in the United States and Europe at cheap prices.

He added that several OPEC members would face the problem of the depletion of their oil in the near future, and that others would be forced to rationalize their production, so as to preserve this wealth.

The oil minister noted that crises and irregularities are expected to take place in the international market so as to secure the greatest amount of oil and reserve it for U.S. and European markets.

He added that many opportunities exist for Iraq to use its oil reserves and explore new wells, enabling it to achieve financial returns that would create new, large opportunities to develop Iraq's economy.

He also noted that Iraq was one of the few oil-producing countries that have experienced agencies and excellent, specialized staff at all levels and for all tasks.

Concluding, the oil minister said that Iraq was no longer in need of the expertise of foreign companies to reconstruct its facilities, and that it will not need foreign companies to construct oil refineries in Iraq in the future.

Paper Notes 'Measures' Against Greedy Merchants

JN2807072192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the measures taken by the competent authorities against some merchants who tamper with the people's means of livelihood were designed to end the excessive greed of those who have lost their patriotism and minimum level of responsibility.

In an article today, the paper says that those merchants have gone too far in their practices that harm the people despite the attempts of high-level authorized parties to draw their attention to the fact that they were stealing and tampering with people's means of livelihood, and that these practices exploit Iraq's current circumstances and the unjust blockade, in addition to the fact that these practices place them on the side of the enemies.

The paper adds that those people thought that the competent agencies were ignorant of their deeds that conflict with the simplest human concepts. They did not know that the national authority was merely giving them time to correct their course without condoning their misdeeds which tighten the noose on citizens under circumstances in which they are facing enemies who have lost their honor and become full of the spirit of aggression against all Iraqis.

AL-THAWRAH concludes that the aim of retribution and taking people to account for this infidelity—such as the people who stood by the enemies of the nation and followed the devil's temptations—is to caution them and to make others learn their lesson well, after the courts have handed down sentences to those who deserve them for having gone too far, since they could no longer heed advice.

'Beheading' Suggested

JN2907172292 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Jul 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Merchants' Crimes Are High Treason"]

[Text] The state has used all conceivable methods to provide merchants with proper advice and to urge them to adhere to the values of honor, manliness, and true patriotism. It advised them to shun illegal profit and illicit gain. It also urged them to shun monopoly, greed, and price tampering, and to refrain from hurting citizens in matters pertaining to their food, health, and livelihood. However, these pieces of advice would have been heeded had you been addressing living creatures [part of a line of poetry]. All of these pieces of advice, pleas, and warnings have gone with the wind. The people have seen that most merchants are bent on pursuing lowly and thievish methods of covert and overt conspiring against the food of millions of limited income earners and wage earners in general, who have been rendered incapable of securing their food requirements and meeting their basic needs.

As for the people, they have remained immensely patient and accepted price hikes in view of the circumstances created by the unfair blockade and the limited options open to the state to secure the requirements and needs of Iraqi families. But, of late, they have begun to cry because of the pain caused by the whips of greedy merchants, which are hitting them hard and emptying their pockets in only a few days. What prompted them to demand that the merchants be punished and that the heads manipulating market octopuses be taken to task is the fact that the state of affairs has become so unacceptable and irrational that prices skyrocketed, that there is now manipulation with regard to the kinds of commodities being offered for sale, that the there is now tampering with the quantities offered for sale, and that there is fraud in the materials used for production. What exacerbated the situation is that this has coincided with each and every escalation in the incessant external aggression against Iraq and its people.

Why can't they content themselves with the abundant wealth they collect in no time? Aren't the price increases they impose as they wish, without any interference, enough? Are the facilities offered to them by the state insufficient? Aren't they satisfied with the statement repeatedly made by leader President Saddam Husayn to the effect that we should always have a good opinion of them and of their conduct?

Many of the greedy merchants and riffraff have shown ingratitude and failed to reciprocate the facilities provided to them. Worse still, they are doing this while their people are under siege and suffering from harsh living conditions and cruel circumstances.

Yes, they have shown themselves to be ungrateful infidels, because they forgot the favors accorded to them, betrayed the trust placed in them, and deviated from the course of the nation and the people—the course charted by the leadership to prevent them from falling into the trap of fatal greed (and heinous conspiracy) against the people's bread and clothes.

The people can no longer condone seeing their food remain a hostage to the bargains and speculation of these greedy merchants, who have acted against religious tenets and the law and sold their consciences to eat of the people's flesh and drink from their blood, and to further fuel the fire of the blockade against honorable Iraqis and against the poor and oppressed classes, who can no longer accept the pretexts and excuses greedy merchants advance to justify their continuation of market manipulation as they deem fit without deterrence or control.

Beheading those who show ingratitude and steal the people's food is a decision that will ensure the needy their requirements for survival. This will also secure for the honorable Iraqi family a decent living marked by satisfaction, tranquility, and peace of mind.

God is a witness to the fact that the people are willing to demonstrate patience over the ordeal regardless of how long it continues, provided that their patience is rewarded with justice that would behead those who are conspiring against the people's food, livelihood, and health. The greedy merchant who is using the lowliest means to make illegal gain will not, under any circumstances, be deemed better than criminal Bush or Fahd, the Americans' servant, who have continued to perpetrate crimes against the Iraqi people and to confiscate their right to livelihood.

Taking greedy merchants to task is a pressing popular demand. There are good reasons and factors that render this a prerequisite for safeguarding the people's dignity, national unity, and their psychological and human stability. As for the leadership, it has shown immense patience in the face of the atrocities being committed by greedy merchants, whose crimes are deemed, in view of the law and the special circumstances being experienced by our people, high treason, a crime punishable by death. While showing immense anger for the sake of God and his people, the great leader said: "Beheading is preferable to starving people."

Foodstuffs Pumped Into Market; Prices To Fall

JN3007143992 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Jul 92 p 8

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondents]

[Excerpts] Baghdad and the governorates—Staple food outlets in central markets and cooperatives around the country were doing brisk business yesterday. This follows measures taken by the Trade Ministry the day before yesterday [26 July]. According to sources at the General Union of Cooperatives, as soon as prices first began to shoot up, cooperatives began pumping large quantities of rationed foodstuffs to satisfy demand at prices far below the going rates. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondents monitoring the central markets and cooperatives report a rush to buy from these outlets, given the affordability of their prices. [passage omitted]

With the distribution of supply rations and a doubling in the amount of foodstuffs pumped into the market via outlets in the central markets and cooperatives, an economic expert predicts prices to fall over the next two days. In meetings convened with merchants from around the country, governors urged a halt to greed so as to forestall enemies and create a state of social solidarity in face of the embargo.

The two sides discussed ways of ensuring a smooth flow of goods and foodstuffs to the public. The governors emphasized that by overcharging and withholding food from the people the merchants must share responsibility with foreigners for letting Iraqis starve. [passage omitted]

Merchants Urged To Sell at Reasonable Prices

JN2807122092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has urged workers in the private commercial sector to play a distinguished role in carrying out their national duty and facing U.S.-Zionist challenges to break the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq. He urged them to demonstrate prominent stands commensurate with the support given to this sector by leader President Saddam Husayn.

Speaking at a meeting today devoted to discussing ways to ensure the smooth flow of goods and food supplies to local markets, the trade minister said that the merchant who contributes to providing food supplies to the local market at reasonable prices reinforces Iraq's steadfastness and its national economy.

The trade minister urged merchants to organize their work and pursue their trade activities and sell at prices that would secure reasonable profit for them, and to not allow middlemen to interfere with their activities.

He also stressed the importance of deriving noble meanings of patriotism from the speech given by leader President Saddam Husayn on 26 July, regarding the confrontation of the criminal conduct of some greedy merchants.

Samih al-Shabibi, chief of the General Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, stressed continued efforts and field activity in a high national spirit to apply leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions and contribute to supplying goods at reasonable prices that do not burden citizens and that foil the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

The meeting was attended by the chief and members of the General Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, the Iraqi Industries Federation, the chief and members of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, chiefs of chambers of commerce in the governorates, and a group of merchants from the private sector concerned with supplying food.

Regime 'Fighter Planes' Reported Over Baghdad

NC3007180092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn has placed the forces of the Republican Guards and the repressive special forces on a state of maximum alert and tightened security around the regime's institutions in Baghdad, for fear of a military coup against the despicable tyrant.

According to a statement published yesterday by the Iraqi Communist Party, platoons from the regime's emergency forces have been heavily deployed in Baghdad since 11 July. The tyrant's security forces have also taken up positions in Baghdad's streets.

The statement says the despicable regime has declared a state of maximum alert and that heavily armed Republican Guards have deployed around al-Rashid camp. Fighter planes [al-ta'irat al-muqatilah] of the tyrant's regime are flying regularly over Baghdad to preempt any coup attempts against the despicable regime.

According to reports, anger and frustration are widespread in Baghdad and servicemen are deserting the Army in increasing numbers.

Kurdish Deputy Ministers Sworn In 29 Jul

NC3007201592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] At 1300 yesterday, the deputy ministers took the constitutional oath in front of Parliamentary Speaker (Jawhar Namiq) and Prime Minister Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum. The officials are:
Aghad Fattah Miran, deputy minister for Peshmerga affairs;
Ahmad Sharif, deputy interior minister;
Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahmand Tir Dawud, deputy minister of industry and energy;
'Uthman Hasan Dighi, deputy minister of education;
Tayyib Jabbar Amin, deputy minister of works and housing;
Husayn Finjari, deputy minister of construction and devolopment;
Faridun Rafiq [word indistinct], deputy minister of transport and communications;
'Abd-al-Ahad Afram, deputy minister of health and social affairs;
Ahmad Salar, deputy minister of culture;
Muhammad Muhammad Salih Daji, deputy minister of awqaf [religious endowments] and religious affairs;
Muhammad Qabil Farah, deputy minister of humanitarian affairs;
Salih As'ad Fattah, deputy minister of municipalities.

Kurdistan Students Allowed To Sit for Exam

JN2807201092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—The Ministry of Education has decided to allow the students from the [Kurdistan] autonomous region governorates who are qualified to sit for the second term exams for the intermediate and preparatory cycles to participate in these exams.

An education ministry responsible source explained to INA that the decision covers those students who were not able to sit for the first term exams and the students of the third intermediate grade who failed in the first term exams in one or more subjects.

The source said that the students from the Dahuk and Irbil governorates will take their exams in the Ninawa Governorate and the students from Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate will sit for their exams in Salah-al-Din Governorate.

The source called on the autonomous region students to benefit from this opportunity and proceed to the education directorates in the referent governorates with the documents showing they are qualified to participate in the general exams for the intermediate and preparatory cycle for the 1991-92 academic year, in addition to their civil identity card, the certificate proving their Iraqi nationality, and two photos.

The ministry has set 27 August as the last date for filing the applications.

Opposition Leader Hakim Plans Saddam's Overthrow

AU2907125092 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 29 Jul 92 p 3

[Udo Ulfkotte report: "Preparations for Saddam's Overthrow"]

[Text] Tehran, July—The man almost appears to be lost in the large room. For hours, he has crouched without moving with crossed legs on a Persian rug and with his back against a big cushion. The noise of the Iranian capital with almost 10 million inhabitants does not phase him. The guards in olive-green combat uniforms see to it that uninvited visitors do not disturb this peace. Ayatollah Hakim enjoys this peace. For he is completely sure that history will soon assign a similarly turbulent fate to him as it did to Iranian revolution leader Khomeyni. The 53-year-old Islamic dignitary is doggedly pursuing his supreme objective: the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the establishment of an Islamic republic in Iraq. Ayatollah Hakim is not the only Iraqi opposition leader in exile, but, as the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, his word carries weight within the various groups.

In an interview with this newspaper, Ayatollah Hakim describes the political and religious objectives of the group led by him. After Saddam Husayn's overthrow, Iraq—like Iran—must become a greater-Islamic republic. Asked whether he emulates radical Iranian revolution leader Khomeyni or his moderate successor Khamene'i, he answers evasively that Islam offers "many opportunities for ruling." However, like Ayatollah Khomeyni in his exile in Paris, he also makes recordings on tapes and has them propagated among the Shiites, who, with 55 percent, are the majority of the population in Iraq. It must be ensured that the unity of the country can be maintained with the present borders. Hakim only wants to recognize autonomy for the Kurds. Then he strokes his long gray beard and adds with a severe look: "But there will never be an independent Kurdish state." Hakim wants to prevent a civil war and further bloodshed in Iraq. He also rejects mass executions of the henchmen of Saddam's regime by saying:

"The majority of these elements are forced to act like this." After the takeover the responsible people have to be called to account, with the Islamic laws being observed. Hakim is sure that the Shiites in Iraq will make him their leader one day. For only a man who is familiar with the Sharia, the Islamic laws, and has brilliantly mastered the confrontation with Saddam's oppressive regime can lead the community. With 29 books and studies on Islam and the supreme command over his fighters operating in the south, Ayatollah Hakim thinks that he fulfills all prerequisites for the office of the future Iraqi head of state. But he still has to convince the other Iraqi opposition groups who have so far only been held together by the struggle against Saddam Husayn.

In September all Iraqi opposition groups want to meet in Saudi Arabia to put an end to their quarrel and to form a national assembly in exile, which, according to Ayatollah Hakim, is to "reflect the true will of the Iraqi people." Hakim does not lack missionary zeal. He points out that several European ministers paid a visit to him in Tehran, the last one was Austrian Foreign Minister Mock in mid-July. Since Ayatollah Hakim left Iraq and his native town of Najaf in 1980, he has resided in Tehran. But only since the allies' war against Iraq has the West paid any attention to him. The British, the French, and the Danish ambassador visited him repeatedly, he said. However, Freitag, the German ambassador to Tehran, "unfortunately" came "only once" to his abode, Hakim said. At the end of the interview, his adviser dictates a "noncommittal recommendation," which should be considered: "Germany has now the chance to decide on the future Iraqi-German relations." Saddam will not live forever. But it is "advisable for Germany to pay attention to Ayatollah Hakim as early as today." In front of Hakim, the white pages of the appointment book on a brown table, which is 80 cm by 30 cm, are still blank. At any rate, Hakim had two telephones installed beside his appointment book. Hakim is sure that Chancellor Kohl will at least call him once during his visit to Tehran, which was agreed upon a few days ago.

Talabani Statement on Kurdish Secession Noted

PM3007141992 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Jul 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Condemns Talabani's Call for Annexation of Kurdistan to Turkey"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The statements of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, have been widely condemned by the Iraqi opposition. Talabani had stated that, in his view, Kurdistan "could politically become a part of Turkey" or Iran or Syria, with Turkey being "the strongest candidate." He said "it is time to discuss that option frankly with Turkish politicians, the Turkish Government, the Turkish press, Turkish intellectuals, and the Turkish people."

Commenting on Talabani's statement, an official spokesman of the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action Committee, has stated that the committee "with all its various Iraqi political forces representing the various national, political, and religious trends agreed in the charter of political action, signed 27 December 1990, that Iraq's territorial and popular unity and sovereignty should be preserved. That principle was unanimously accepted by the Iraqi opposition within and outside the joint action framework, and that includes the Kurdistan Front, which was one of the parties which effectively contributed to that charter."

The spokesman added: "Successive developments at regional and international levels have confirmed that subjective fact. Such statements arouse fears in the states of the region and at international level. They carry more risks for the Iraqi people in their struggle against the regime because they provide another justification for more blows to the rights of the Iraqi people, including Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, and all other minorities, under the cover of a secessionist trend by one party or another."

The spokesman further said: "Throughout the past period of negotiations (with the Iraqi president), Jalal Talabani's attitude has been ambiguous, individualist, and at variance with the various other political forces. That has been very detrimental to the Iraqi people, especially our Kurdish brothers.

"Iraq was and still is a single political entity and no power, whatever its reasons, has a right to depart from that premise. We cannot understand these statements except as an attempt to preoccupy the opposition and expose the country to new dangers."

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: "We are aware of the regional attitudes in general and of Turkey's position in particular regarding the autonomy to which the Kurdish brothers aspire and the fears arising from any secessionist trend aimed at partitioning the country. No power or side would make such a decision because the Iraqi people are unanimous on this matter. The Iraqi people of all nationalities are unanimous that the unity of the country must be preserved and that the Iraqi Kurds' struggle confirms their legitimate right to self-determination within the context of Iraq's unity and sovereignty." [passage omitted]

Experts Urge Signing Chemical Weapons Treaty

TA3007132092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel will sign the international treaty for the prohibition of chemical weapons at the end of 1992, and will put off resolving the political dispute surrounding the treaty to the final endorsement stage, which will last about two years.

This is the recommendation currently being formulated by experts from various government ministries. Their conclusions will be submitted to the political echelon for approval within the next few weeks.

The professional experts believe that Israel has a clear interest in eliminating all chemical weapons in the Middle East, both because of its historical sensitivity to the use of gas in killing human beings, and also because it was actually threatened with the use of such weapons, as proven in the Gulf war.

Israel is now waiting for the final approval of the draft of the chemical weapons nonproliferation treaty by the international disarmament committee in Geneva, which comprises some 40 countries. [passage omitted]

Over the past few months, Israel and the Arab countries have demanded that the other side be the first to sign the treaty. Pressure was exerted on Israel to sign first in order to neutralize the Arabs' demands. This was the most prominent issue on the agenda during German Deputy Foreign Minister Josef Holick's visit to Israel two weeks ago. Germany is in charge of all issues related to the treaty on the prohibition of chemical weapons, within the framework of the International Disarmament Committee. [passage omitted]

Accord With U.S. on CIS Aid 'Breakthrough'

TA3007090592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Israel and the United States will soon send a joint delegation to the Central Asian Muslim republics of the CIS to look into projects to be conducted by Israel with U.S. financing.

An agreement to this effect—the first of its kind—was reached in talks held recently in Jerusalem by Richard Armitage, the U.S. State Department official in charge of aid to the CIS republics. As part of the agreement, the United States will allocate $4 million to finance yet unspecified projects.

Foreign Ministry officials have voiced their pleasure over the agreement, which was consolidated through their initiative. According to them, the agreement in general and the expedition of a joint delegation in particular constitute a breakthrough and an achievement "of international dimensions." The officials also stressed the political importance entailed in the presence of a joint Israeli-U.S. delegation in the Muslim republics of the CIS. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry officials assume that if the program succeeds, the United States will significantly increase its allocation in the future. The sum allocated to this program, to be conducted by the Foreign Ministry's International Cooperation Department, comes in addition to the $5 million that the United States has been allocating to Israel's aid activities in Africa over the past six years.

EC Representative Welcomes Change in Attitude

TA3007132892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Gwyn Morgan, the EC representative in Israel, welcomed the change in Israel's position regarding the EC's inclusion in the peace process and especially in the multilateral talks on arms control in the Middle East.

Today, Mr. Morgan published the results of a public opinion survey which showed that a clear majority of Israelis have positive sentiments toward Europe, despite what he claimed was the Likud government's markedly hostile attitude toward the EC.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace, New Government

TA3107063192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jul 92 p B2

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Uri Avneri in 'Arafat's office in Tunis on 29 July]

[Text] I asked 'Arafat: What was your initial response when you heard the results of the Israeli elections? What does the turnabout mean to you?

He replied to my opening question without hesitation: "The upheaval symbolizes a big change. The Israeli people voted for peace."

What is his view of the new prime minister? "We have seen clear signals in the right direction. I hope that he will operate according to his platform and also according to the platforms of Meretz and the others. These platforms do not provide answers to everything we want; they are not enough for us, but they definitely move in the right direction."

He linked the election results to the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who have done military reserve duty in the occupied territories since the beginning of the intifadah. "They are forced to break into houses at night. They do not like what they have to do. They also have children, women, old people at home."

The interview lasted nearly two hours. Here the main elements.

[Avneri] Ari'el Sharon said in the Knesset yesterday: "We will not let you (the government) implement your policy." At precisely the same time, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] convened in Amman and called for a referendum among all the Palestinians in the world in order to forestall negotiations for the establishment of Palestinian self-government. Extreme opposition to a peaceful solution is expected from both sides. Do you see this as a danger?

['Arafat] Sharon tried to break us when he invaded Lebanon, but he did not succeed. You saw us in besieged Beirut with your own eyes. He will not succeed this time, either.

[Avneri] But is armed opposition by Hamas and the other extremists on your side not to be expected?

['Arafat] The great majority of the Palestinian people, through its elected institutions, has given me a clear mandate on the basis of the platform I presented. We have a democracy. The minority can make its views heard, but the majority decides.

[Avneri] When elections are announced for the Palestinian self-government institutions, will not Hamas and its likes threaten your candidates? Will they not threaten Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and their colleagues?

['Arafat] I will give you a fresh example: the events at al-Najah University in Nabulus. We won the elections and received a clear majority. Immediately afterward, when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a blockade on the campus, all the factions—even Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front—united and set up a joint opposition.

[Avneri] That is not the same situation. There was a confrontation between the Palestinians and Israelis in that situation. I am talking about a confrontation among the Palestinians.

['Arafat] The minority will have to accept the majority's view. That is what happens in a democracy.

[Avneri] There are those in Israel who believe that it is possible to make peace with half the Palestinian people, those who live in the occupied territories, and to ignore the other half, those who live in the diaspora. What do you think about that?

['Arafat] That is inconceivable. What would you say had I said that I want peace only with the Sephardim and not with the Ashkenazim? With Neturey Qarta [ultra-Orthodox who oppose the establishment of the State of Israel] and not with the nonreligious? Peace is made with a whole people; otherwise, there will be no peace, certainly not lasting peace.

I will ask you a question: Who issues the orders to the intifadah? Not the PLO? When Shamir dispatched his people to kill Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] (points to the large picture hanging in front of him), he said that Abu-Jihad leads the intifadah. So with whom will you make peace? Peace is made with an enemy. The PLO is the main body of the Palestinian people, and peace without it will not be peace. If peace is wanted—a just and stable peace, and especially (stressing) lasting peace—you will have to come to us, the main body. There is no point in giving aspirin to a cancer patient. The illness must be treated.

[Avneri] Because most Israelis believe that the right of return threatens the state's very existence, their main fear regarding negotiations with the PLO is that it will raise this issue. What do you say to them?

['Arafat] There are hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in Latin America, and they are living under excellent conditions. Will they come back? There are many Palestinians living in North America and Europe, and their situation is good. Will they come back? The UN resolution refers to either a return or financial compensation. We must put the issue on the table and discuss it in order to reach an agreement.

We have been told that one-third of the Russian emigrants who came to live in Israel are Christians. Our friends in Nazareth have told us that the Russian churches are packed. What right do you have to bring them to Israel when the Palestinians cannot return to their country?

[Avneri] It is not your business whom we bring to Israel, just as it will not be our business whom you bring to the Palestinian state when it is established.

['Arafat] And if I bring 100 million Arabs, 200 million Muslims?

[Avneri] If you will be able to absorb them, it is your business. Immigration to Israel is our business.

['Arafat] All those problems must be put on the table openly and courageously. You have problems, but so do we. We have to deal not only with your problems, but also with ours. When there is goodwill on both sides, an acceptable solution will be found. But it will not be done without the PLO. You must remember what happened. Baker tried to avoid negotiations with the PLO. Did he succeed? That is the question!

The PLO is not just some organization. It is the identity of the Palestinians, of over 6.5 million Palestinians. Nobody can annihilate them; we are not Indians. According to an authorized institution, for every 1,000 Jews in Israel there 14 people with B.A. degrees, while for every 1,000 Palestinians there are 18 with B.A. degrees; therefore, we are not Indians.

Arabs and Jews lived together for hundred of years. You know, in our Koran there is a very important verse; you cannot imagine how important it is. It says (quoting in Arabic): "There are those among the people of Moshe who act in a just way, and their laws are just laws among the peoples." Can you imagine that? I believe that. We

cannot go on living without rights, without justice. How long will you be able to go on like that?

[Avneri] I want to ask you a very pragmatic question: If the negotiations for Palestinian self-rule begin seriously now, as the new government wants, can you imagine a cease-fire, a halt to acts of violence by both sides?

['Arafat] Everything must be put on the table. Where there is a will, there is a way, as I told you, but with whom are you going to make such an agreement?

[Avneri] A good question.

['Arafat] With whom, with whom?

[Avneri] Can Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues....

['Arafat] With whom? With whom if not with the main body, with whom? (Sulayman Najar, leader of the Palestinian People's Party, the former communists, who entered the room for a few minutes, intervenes: "With the intifadah leadership!")

[Avneri] Can you imagine a situation in which the intifadah leadership, the PLO, will authorize the Palestinian delegation to negotiate such a cease-fire?

['Arafat] That will be raised at the table! Not on its own, however, but together with the issue of the illegal settlements.

[Avneri] They have now been stopped.

['Arafat] Illegal settlements violate the UN resolutions, the resolutions of the Security Council, and even the Geneva Conventions.

[Avneri] Let us assume for a moment that I am negotiating in Israel's name, and I am sitting at the table opposite the Palestinian delegation...

['Arafat] If you will be there, if you will be there, I will give you a great deal...

[Avneri] I will not be there, that is for sure!

['Arafat] ...because I have confidence in you.

[Avneri] Okay, not me, but somebody else will be sitting at the negotiating table and will suggest a stop to settlement activity, a stop to the intifadah, a stop to acts of violence by both sides, and perhaps also a stop to the economic boycott. Do you think that negotiations can be conducted on that?

['Arafat] You ask that, the Americans ask that, so let that be put on the table! You want me to give you all the answers when I am outside? I am a pragmatic person! Why should I give you an answer? Have you formally been given the authority to discuss that with me?

[Avneri] No, I have come as a journalist.

['Arafat] I do not volunteer presents ('Arafat says the word in Arabic and looks for the right translation into English. His secretary suggests the Hebrew translation "I do not give away something for nothing").

[Avneri] In other words, the answer is: That proposal must be put to the PLO.

['Arafat] The PLO! Since you are talking about the Arab boycott, the offer must also be put to the Arab states. They are negotiating with you on many things.

[Avneri] That is correct as far as the Arab boycott is concerned, but a cease-fire is only between Israel and the Palestinians.

['Arafat] Yes.

[Avneri] Mr. Rabin suggested that we put off the negotiations with the Syrians and concentrate right now on negotiations with the Palestinians. Do you think that is possible?

['Arafat] That is unfair. For the good of the negotiations, something must happen on the Golan Heights. According to information that has reached me from various sources, there is an intention to work out a new disengagement agreement. There must be some sort of withdrawal; there must be goodwill gestures by all sides, in Lebanon as well.

[Avneri] In other words, interim agreements with all three sides—the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon—simultaneously?

['Arafat] I think that is the best solution. Otherwise, there will be trouble, because what we aspire to is a durable and just solution for us all, a comprehensive solution.

[Avneri] And you think that the Syrians can cause quite a lot of trouble and prevent an agreement if they are left out?

['Arafat] I do not think Rabin is stupid; therefore, he will not leave them out. The same holds true for Baker.

[Avneri] Who, in your view, should supervise the elections in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] We have many examples. What happened in Gambia? What happened in Nicaragua?

[Avneri] There were private inspectors.

['Arafat] The elections in Gambia were under UN supervision; the Nicaraguan elections were supervised privately.

[Avneri] Former President Carter.

['Arafat] Private observers acceptable to both sides. We will be able to find a compromise. We can bring a team of international observers or one on behalf of the cochairmen (of the peace conference), if you do not want a UN team.

[Avneri] Let us assume that the elections are held and the self-governing authority is functioning. It is obvious that until a permanent solution is found, many problems will crop up between the Israeli Government and the self-governing authority. They will have to cooperate on security, land, water, and other issues.

['Arafat] Committees will have to be set up to deal with these problems.

[Avneri] Joint committees?

['Arafat] Definitely! Like the joint committees that existed between you and Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan.

[Avneri] Those committees were limited to handling very narrow areas.

['Arafat] But there is a precedent for committees of this nature.

[Avneri] Would that not put the Palestinian officials in a tight spot? It could lead certain Palestinians to accuse them of cooperating with the enemy.

['Arafat] Any occupation is followed by many problems and much confusion. That must be resolved. After the occupation in Namibia ended, 27 months had to pass before all the problems between Namibia and South Africa were resolved. Twenty-seven months! I am a practical man. Nobody can expect all the problems to be solved in one fell swoop.

[Avneri] That means that the self-governing authority will need very strong PLO support.

['Arafat] There is no doubt about that. Since we are talking about security, who will provide security if not the PLO? I ask everybody, each woman and man: Who will safeguard security? The Israeli people must understand that, and your leaders must explain it to their people in a bold, open way, as we do with our people. We discuss everything with our people; we put everything on the table.

[Avneri] An Israeli would ask you at this point: Every few days, some Palestinian from Gaza or somewhere else comes and stabs passersby in Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Jerusalem, killing them. How can that be ended when Palestinian self-government is set up in the territories?

['Arafat] When the armed settlers and the IDF stop breaking into Palestinian homes and firing at our women and children. You bomb our refugee camps in Lebanon. Since the start of the year or even earlier, since the Madrid conference, those camps have been encircled by Lebanese Army forces. Nobody can leave without their permission. Nevertheless, the Israeli Army shells them, bombs them from the air, shells them from the land and sea. Why?

[Avneri] That is within the framework of the activities against Hizballah.

['Arafat] They are under siege. You know that we handed our arms over to the Lebanese Army. This has been made public.

[Avneri] We are in fact returning to the question about a cease-fire. If we want the acts of violence by one side to stop, the acts of violence by the other side must also stop.

['Arafat] Yes, that is obvious! As you will recall, we honor our agreements. We honored the agreement we reached in 1981 (referring to the unofficial cease-fire agreement between the Palestinians and Israel on the northern border). Who violated it? Begin! Begin violated it when he invaded Lebanon. Our side did not fire a single shot. We had the power and morale to stop. Not even a single shot was fired by us for 11 months!

[Avneri] That is really the question. In Lebanon you had control of the terrain. You honored the accord in full, but in the occupied territories the current situation is different, there is a different division of forces. The question is: Is such control possible in this type of situation?

['Arafat] If you negotiate with the main force—the PLO—the problem can be solved. If you ignore the main body, nothing will be solved. It is like giving aspirin to a cancer patient. I would like to ask Rabin: In the big confrontation between you and Shamir, on the eve of the elections, you challenged Shamir and told him that he is conducting indirect negotiations with the PLO and with 'Arafat. I ask: Why do you continue along the same path now? Even Shamir can put such a question to him. Why is he conducting indirect negotiations?

[Avneri] Permit me to go one step further. If we assume that within a year there will be an agreement on self-rule, then the self-governing authority will start to function, there will be full cooperation between the self-governing authority and the Israeli Government, and, three years later, the stage of negotiations on the permanent solution will arrive. How do you see this?

['Arafat] There is still no agreement on that. We have our point of view, the Americans have theirs, the Russians have theirs, and the Israelis have theirs. The issue has not been discussed in detail. Agreement has to be reached on that in the next round of negotiations. If Rabin wants to reach agreement on that, the matter must be discussed in detail. According to the letter of guarantees the Americans presented us, the negotiations on the permanent solution must begin at the beginning of the third year of self- government.

I believe that Rabin will not follow in the path of Shamir, who declared recently that he had planned to stretch the negotiations over 10 years and not to reach any agreement. We should recall the Bush proposal, which is still the basis for the negotiations: peace in return for territories. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and security for the entire region—these form the basis. We accepted it officially, the Arabs accepted it officially, Shamir

accepted it with his mouth but not in his heart. The next round of negotiations will show whether Rabin is different.

[Avneri] Permit me to jump one step ahead. Assuming that...

['Arafat] I do not like to jump ahead on that matter.

[Avneri] ...one day there will be an agreement on the establishment of a Palestinian state, not during the term of this government, but under the next one. How do you view Israel's place in the region then?

['Arafat] We want a solution that will be for the good of all, our children and our children's children. Are 45 years of war not enough? Is it not enough? I believe it is enough! How long will you be carrying rifles? How long? Wars, wars, wars. How long? We need wise people, brave people, to make peace, real peace. If somebody will seek to dictate peace by force, it will not be peace but submission. We want a permanent solution.

There is a new era, a new order; there is even peace between the Americans, Russians, and Europeans. The Israelis also must recognize this. Nelson Mandela was released from prison, apartheid disappeared following a referendum in South Africa, there is no longer an occupation anywhere. The Baltic states achieved independence. Ukraine, Slovenia, and Bosnia have become independent states and were accepted as members of the United Nations. Why must the Palestinian people be the only ones who must live under your occupation? Why? We need a de Gaulle, and if not de Gaulle, then a de Klerk.

[Avneri] What will Israel's place in the Middle East be?

['Arafat] We do not intend to replace Israel. I am referring to a two-state solution. We once offered you a joint democratic state, in which Jews, Muslims, and Christians live together. You did not want it. Can Israeli leaders continue to live with the old mentality under the new order?

[Avneri] Can you foresee a Middle East in which everybody can move about freely, trade freely?

['Arafat] If there is peace, peace between all of us, everything will be different. What is the meaning of the multilateral talks? With whom are you talking now? With all the Gulf states, with the Maghreb states, with the five countries encircling Israel, with Yemen, with the Arabs. Not only with the Palestinian people. That is the meaning of the multilateral talks. Committees were set up to deal with economic affairs, the environment, arms control, water, refugees. This means that the main problems can be resolved in these talks. That is the future! They—Israel and the Arabs—are talking about the region, water, and arms.

[Avneri] Can you imagine Israel belonging to a body like the Arab League?

['Arafat] No. There is no room for Cyprus either in the Arab League. Are you Arabs? We must maintain our Arab identity.

[Avneri] So not in the Arab League, but in a new body, a sort of Middle East league?

['Arafat] In Europe there are different people speaking different languages, and they have set up a European Community. There is the OAU and similar bodies in other parts of the world.

[Avneri] Can you imagine a body like the EC in the Middle East, with Israel as a member?

['Arafat] Why not? You see, peace is an open horizon!

[Avneri] Would you like to meet with Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] I am ready. Is he?

[Avneri] Were you to meet him, what would you say to him?

['Arafat] I would say one thing: Let us make a just peace for the sake of your children and our children.

[Avneri] Would you come to Jerusalem?

['Arafat] I have been there. I was born in Jerusalem.

[Avneri] Rabin was also born in Jerusalem.

['Arafat] Okay, very good, let us remember all the good times. Once there was a search under way for me in Jerusalem, when I returned their secretly after the war, in 1967, and in 1968. I have a Jerusalem identity card. The Israelis went from house to house handing out identity cards, and I also got one.

[Avneri] You were born in 1929; in other words, you are seven years younger than Rabin. Both of you were born here. You might find something in common. We did not discuss the airline crash. How many times have you been saved from death?

['Arafat] Many times. Both of us were in Beirut, and we were shelled together when you came to interview me then.

[Avneri] Let us have one last word for the Israeli public.

['Arafat] One little officer can set off a war between two countries, but only great people can make peace.

[Avneri) On both sides.

['Arafat] That is right, on both sides.

Arab Delegation Members Meet 'Arafat in Tunis

TA3007101592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Jul 92 p 2

[Report from Tunis by Muhammad Khalayla]

[Excerpt] The leaders of the Israeli Arab delegation that has been in Tunis for the past five days have met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO's top leadership in Tunisia. It has been learned that Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who, on two consecutive days, disappeared for a few hours from the hotel where the delegation has been staying, conferred with 'Arafat, Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas (alias Abu-Mazin), Bassam Abu-Sharif, and other prominent PLO members.

DAVAR has learned that Mahamid met separately with the leaders of the various PLO factions that do not belong to Fatah. The developments in Israel in the wake of the recent elections were discussed freely in the meetings. The PLO men asked Mahamid and al-Tibi to assess whether the new government is indeed capable of and interested in promoting peace and a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians.

The PLO-Tunis leaders particularly wanted to know whether Mahamid believes that Yitzhaq Rabin is capable of leading Israel to genuine peace and of making crucial decisions in this regard.

It has been learned from Palestinian sources that 'Arafat reiterated to the two Israelis that his hand remains outstretched to Rabin and that he is waiting to see whether Rabin will extend his hand to him. Mahamid and al-Tibi provided general information about the political picture in Israel in the wake of the elections and said that, in their opinion, a new channel has been opened for a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

'Arafat told the two: "I want to see Rabin sign a true and just peace with the Palestinian people and with the PLO and thus go down in the annals of history as the hero of peace." [passage omitted]

Arab Studies Center Termed 'PLO Representation'

TA2907200492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] In reaction to the decision to permit the reopening of Jerusalem's Institute for Arab Studies, the Likud spokesman said that for the first time in Israel, the government is giving permission to open a PLO representation in the heart of Jerusalem. He said it has now become clear to each citizen that a government that starts with concessions in Nabulus and Gaza will end up with making them on the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, and with the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Residents of Territories Stopped at Bridge

TA2807135392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tens of thousands of residents of the territories are currently waiting to return home on the Jordanian side of the Allenby Bridge, but only some 3,000 get to cross the border daily. A committee has been set up in the territories to deal with, what they call, the Civil Administration policy which bans the residents of the territories from returning to their homes.

Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf has called on the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration to extend working hours on the Allenby Bridge in order to cut the duration of the residents' stay on the Jordanian side. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that ever since the Adam Bridge was closed to residents and tourists, thousands have been lining up at the Allenby Bridge.

The Civil Administration said in response that the number of those allowed to cross the bridge has been extended to 3,000 a day, despite the fact that an agreement was made with Jordan at the beginning of last month that only 1,750 people will be allowed across. The Civil Administration spokesman stressed that the fact that the Adam Bridge has been closed did not have an effect on the number of people crossing the Allenby Bridge. She added that construction work to improve services on the bridge are near completion and that 11 million shekels have been invested in the project.

Palestinians Refuse Deportation as Solution

TA3007171692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The prospective deportees' attorneys announced today that they reject the compromise under which their clients would voluntarily leave the country for a predetermined period. Any solution spelling deportation is unacceptable to us, they said. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports:

We will not accept any compromise or proposal suggesting the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland, said the attorneys of the 11 residents of the territories slated for deportation. At a news conference in East Jerusalem today, the deportees' attorneys and relatives said they would reject any solution spelling expulsion from what they referred to as Palestine. Here is Attorney Usamah 'Udda, one of the attorneys:

[Begin 'Udda recording in English] The 11 Palestinians slated for deportation reject the most recent proposal of the Israeli Government. Also, we reject any proposal which leads to expel....[end recording]

[Segal translates the above passage and continues] They reject any proposal leading to their expulsion from our homeland, says Attorney 'Udda. We are willing to negotiate proposals that would allow us to remain in our land. His remarks implied that he was referring to incarceration in Israeli prisons.

Immediately after 'Udda's statement, the wife of one of the prospective deportees' began speaking, but she was interrupted by the report that two policemen had been stabbed in Jerusalem, and the news conference was thus called off.

Sharon, Settlers Plan Actions Against Freeze

TA2807182092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpts] Despite the absence of many members, the opposition coalition this afternoon held its first meeting. [passage omitted]

Addressing the meeting, Ari'el Sharon said: New things come up every day; apparently they are now freezing the Galilee, as well. We must not, he said, allow them even a minute of rest.

[Begin Sharon recording] The opposition must fight this government, because this is a dangerous government. We must make things difficult by raising issues on the agenda, by motions of no confidence. We must not allow the government to relax. We must fight it any way we can. [end recording]

Sharon specified only a few of the moves on which he and the leaders of settlers decided yesterday: demonstrations, conventions, construction campaigns, and a settling drive.

[Begin Sharon recording] Yesterday, I met with a group of people from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and we agreed on a series of activities. All these activities are within the bounds of law, within the limits of situations acceptable in democracies—nothing beyond that. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Plan To Thwart New Policy Approved

TA2907050392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza decided on a long-term plan yesterday to prevent the new government from implementing its political program. The council will immediately launch an information campaign, which will include handing out leaflets on street corners, staging demonstrations, and, according to council heads, humorous gimmicks. At a stormy four-hour meeting yesterday, the council members decided to send a letter to each settler urging him to convince a friend to move to the territories. Council heads said that they would set up a research center to study—in their words—the dangers of autonomy as a prelude to a Palestinian state.

Further Reportage on Explosion at IMI Plant

IMI Chairman Denies Sabotage Rumor

TA3007154692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Reserves Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chairman of the Israel Military Industries board of directors, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good evening, sir. Do you know what brought on the safety mishap that caused the explosion?

[Shomron] Listen, I believe it will take some time before we know what happened, and perhaps we will never find out exactly.

[Friedman] Is there no evidence left? Was everything destroyed?

[Shomron] Evidence does exist. On the contrary, we started by collecting evidence. That was done by various elements, including the police, the forensic laboratory, and our own experts.

I would like to say something else, however. As can be expected, risk is part of the Israel Military Industries' [IMI] work. At the same time, IMI's safety criteria are the highest possible. First of all, we apply American standards in dealing with explosives, propellants, and ammunition. Second, there is a control system. Every plant has an expert in charge of safety, and there is one responsible for a group of plants. In addition, a management-level official is responsible for training and other relevant issues. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Mr. Shomron, I would like to ask you a delicate question, and you will soon understand why. All kinds of rumors are circulating today, one of which—the worst—speaks of the possibility of an inside job of sabotage. Have you heard about that?

[Shomron] I am sure that as long as there are no answers, rumors will fill the void. I do not know of any possibility of sabotage. At the same time, I can tell you that I do not know what caused the first explosion, and how it moved to additional bunkers in what seems to be a chain of explosions. Truly, right now I do not know the answer, and I think no one can know at this point. All the theories are mere assumptions, and this is the reason an inquiry commission has been appointed. [passage omitted]

Explosion Unrelated to Production

TA3007161692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In parallel with the police investigation, the inquiry commission appointed by Defense Minister Rabin has already started its own investigation into the Nof Yam plant explosion. According to the initial data conveyed by IMI [Israel Military Industries] heads to the Defense Ministry, the explosion was apparently caused by a safety hitch unrelated in any way to either production processes or experiments. Dozens of tonnes of propellant—apparently gunpowder—exploded in a storage bunker of an IMI plant near Nof Yam. Because of the early hour, few people were in the area. One of the fatalities was close to the explosion, while the other was killed by the collapse of a roof over his head. [passage omitted]

Two IMI employees were killed in the explosion: Gershon Matzliah from Herzliyya and another worker, whose name has not been released as yet. [passage omitted]

Fatalities in Explosion Rise to 3

TA3007120392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Three people were killed and 40 were injured in an explosion at an Israel Military Industries [IMI] plant in Herzliyya this morning. Most of those hurt sustained light to moderate injuries. This was reported a short while by Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Turner.

The police commissioner told Qol Yisra'el that the rescue authorities had acted efficiently and noted the high level of cooperation between the different services. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that several structures inside the IMI plant were badly damaged. Damage was caused to property throughout the entire area stretching between Ramat Hasharon and Ramat Gan. The damage was mostly light; windows were shattered, objects fell, and the shock waves caused cars along the highway to swerve off course. Electricity and telephone lines were also damaged. Since the morning hours, the authorities have been extending assistance to people who sustained physical injuries, or those whose property was damaged.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appointed an inquiry commission headed by reserves Major General 'Amos Horev to investigate the circumstances of the explosion at the IMI plant and to recommend ways to preclude any future accidents of this kind.

Knesset Member Ori Or, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who was once a member of IMI's board of directors, told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that those plants which pose a danger to their surroundings should be moved from central Israel to the Negev region.

Rabin Comments on Explosion, Stabbing

TA3007192292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke this evening at the closing session of the 32nd World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen spoke with the prime minister about today's events after his speech.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] This was a terrible disaster. I would like to send my condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones, and I also wish a speedy recovery to the injured. Clearly, this disaster obligates us to expedite the relocation of the IMI [Israel Military Industries] plants in the Negev. We also have to examine other possibly dangerous plants that are located in densely populated areas. We will have to draw the appropriate conclusions and implement them.

[Ronen] Will there be less probability of such disasters happening if the IMI plants are moved to the Negev?

[Rabin] The answer is naturally yes. I do not want to reach any conclusions regarding the details of today's disaster. An inquiry commission headed by reserves Major General 'Amos Horev has been appointed, and it will submit its report as to what exactly happened, and how, as soon as possible. One should remember that these plants have been operating for decades without any mishaps; however, it is now clear that nothing can be left to chance.

[Ronen] A last question, Mr. Prime Minister. Two policemen were stabbed today in Jerusalem near the Western Wall. Do you consider this an escalation of the intifadah or a sign of greater daring?

[Rabin] The very fact that this happened is in itself very serious. One policeman died of his wounds. I would like to send my condolences to the family in this instance as well. I hope the second policeman will recover quickly. The perpetrator was shot and killed. This is what should be done to anyone who tries to attack a policeman, soldier, or any citizen who is licensed to carry a gun.

[Ronen] Do you consider today's stabbing an exacerbation of the intifadah?

[Rabin] I do not think that an isolated incident signals an exacerbation. Nevertheless, our past experience has shown that whenever there appears to be some chance of making political progress, there are extremist elements who attempt to stop the process, to create tension, and spur extremism through fanatic and heinous actions, because they want to foil any chances for peace. [end recording]

Policemen Stabbed in Jerusalem; Assailant Killed

TA3007100892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Near the Dung Gate in Jerusalem, two policemen were stabbed a short time ago. The assailant was shot and killed by a passer-by. One of the policemen is in serious condition and was rushed to hospital. The other was lightly hurt.

Policeman Dies of Wounds

TA3007153892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The policeman who was critically injured when stabbed near Jerusalem's Dung Gate, has died of his wounds in the hospital. His family has been notified. The other injured policeman was operated on and is now in stable condition.

Rabin Appoints 2 SHAS Deputy Ministers

TA2907174692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin officially informed the Knesset today of his first two appointments to the positions of deputy minister: Moshe Maya, deputy education minister, and Arye Gamli'el, deputy housing minister. Both men are Knesset members from the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party.

Agudat Yisra'el Not To Act Against Coalition

TA2907152892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Labor and Agudat Yisra'el agreed that the Agudat's three Knesset members [MK's] will not act against the government in the Knesset. It was agreed that they will not present no-confidence motions, not vote against the government if such motions are presented, and not join the opposition in votes on matters important to the government, such as on budgetary matters, according to our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich. Under the agreement, MK Avraham Shapira will be a full partner to coalition consultations in the Knesset Finance Committee. Agudat member Avraham Schwartz will remain director general of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Labor, however, made clear to Agudat Yisra'el that it will not be able to keep the labor and social welfare portfolio open for long, so it will have to make an official move soon to join the coalition. When that happens, an agreement will also be reached on the ultra-Orthodox independent school system and its representative in the Education Ministry. Our correspondent notes that MK Ravitz of Degel Hatora is not a partner to the agreement under order of Rabbi Schach.

Settlement Freeze 'Step in Right Direction'

NC2907103592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has stressed that his country's position toward the Middle East peace process has been clear and consistent since the negotiations started. This position, he explained, is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of a land-for-peace exchange, and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Jordanian foreign minister told The Voice of the Arabs that Israel will not be able to break up the Arab ranks because the Arabs are bound by a common future and interests.

Pointing out last week's Damascus meeting of the cordon states and Egypt, Dr. Abu-Jabir stressed that Arab coordination is continuing.

He said it is possible to make progress along a certain front within the Arab-Israeli negotiations, but this will be part of the agreed-upon overall Arab strategy. He expressed belief that no agreement between the Palestinians and the Israeli Government will be signed without coordination with the other Arab parties.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was optimistic during his recent tour of the region because he sensed readiness on the part of the Israelis to reach peace with the Arab parties and to abide by it.

He described the halt to settlement building as a step in the right direction, showing that the Israeli Government is serious in continuing the peace process. However, he added, this step is not enough.

The Jordanian foreign minister called for Arab reconciliation as soon as possible to heel the Arab rift. This, he explained, would motivate the negotiating Arab parties.

House Calls for 'Inter-Arab Reconciliation'

JN3007094092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The House of Representatives has blessed His Majesty King Husayn's initiative to restore the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, and stressed its outright rejection of the internationalization of Jerusalem and the holy Islamic and Christian places under any justification or pretext.

In a statement issued today, the House stressed its total rejection of any solution that aims at liquidating the Palestine question and undermining the national rights of the Palestinian people. It emphasized its full support for the blessed Palestinian intifadah, and called on Palestinian forces and groups in the occupied homeland to iron out differences and adhere to national unity in order to confront the policies of the occupation.

The statement said that settlements, whether called security or political settlements, constitute a real danger that swallows the Palestinian land.

The House of Representatives called for inter-Arab reconciliation and for ensuring the minimum Arab and Islamic solidarity in order to restore the inalienable national and pan-Arab rights of the Arabs and Muslims.

The House denounced the continuous policy of deportation which the occupation authorities are practicing and which emphasizes the continued policy of uprooting the Palestinian people from their land, and stressed the Palestinian people's right to return home.

Al-'Aqabah 'First Target' in War With Iraq

JN3007113692 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 30 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the Jordanian Government has read—through the American warnings and hints made by several American officials in their press statements—hostile intentions toward Jordan. Well-informed sources did not rule out that should the United States decide to launch a blatant aggression against Iraq, the first American blow would be at the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba. The sources said that the Gulf of Aqaba is a source of great concern for the United States, which considers that it has been Iraq's lifeline since the imposition of the blockade, and the strong wall that protects Iraq.

The sources added that the United States has recently increased its fleet in the Red Sea and escalated its repressive measures against the ships bound for the Gulf of Aqaba. The U.S. fleet does not allow many ships to enter the Gulf of Aqaba and threatens to use force against them. These measures obstruct trade to and from the Gulf of Aqaba and have seriously harmed the Jordanian economy. The sources stressed that due to the failure of these measures, the United States plans to make al-'Aqabah its first target if it launches an aggression against Iraq.

Bin-Shakir, Syrian Minister Discuss Cooperation

JN2907132292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Excerpt] At his office in the Prime Ministry this morning, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Syrian Industry Minister Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din. Industry and Trade Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur also attended the meeting.

The prime minister was briefed on joint efforts to enhance Jordanian-Syrian ties in the field of joint industrial ventures launched by the two countries, as well as on means of bolstering these ties to achieve economic integration between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, the prime minister affirmed the need to utilize the expertise and capabilities available in

the two fraternal countries to promote both countries' mutual interests in service of the two peoples.

Meetings of the General Assembly of the Syrian-Jordanian Industrial Company began in Amman this morning under the cochairmanship of Industry and Trade Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur and Syrian Industry Minister Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, who is also chairman of the company's board of directors. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Russian Official

JN2907165792 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, 29 Jul (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir received at his office today Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African desk.

The Russian envoy conveyed a letter from Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev dealing with the peace process in the region.

King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave on Private Visit

JN3007144192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman today for Europe on a private visit that will last several days. [passage omitted]

Corruption Case May Help Detect 'Loopholes'

JN3007063692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30-31 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Disease That Hit Home"]

[Text] Corruption to nations is like cancer to people. It eats away at the very fabric of society. Not only Third World countries are plagued by corruption. Even superpowers and other advanced nations have it.

For some people and countries corruption is a way in life. But the disease also has some political roots. In countries like Jordan, where the division of powers was not clear and only recently started to take shape, corruption was made possible by successive governments' overwhelming control on people's lives. It is politically accepted of course that where there is repression, corruption thrives. And it comes in varying shapes and degrees. As one deputy remarked during Parliament's Monday session, an official who uses a government vehicle to deliver goods to his home, and the other who uses his official driver to ferry his family around, and he who uses his influence to acquire government land or place his son or relative in a government position are all committing acts of corruption. And if we apply that criteria to Jordan, we find that corruption is highly rampant. In this vein, and according to this criteria, corruption did not end with the coming of the 11th Parliament in 1989 nor is it likely to stop here. It still continues, perhaps at a lower scale than in the past. It is hard to assert its magnitude.

Many people, for example, make profit from their positions without for a moment thinking that this is not right. It has, over the years, became a norm, and perhaps a God-given right, for officials to use their positions for their own benefits. It is not hard to find terribly rich men, who only 15 years ago were junior civil servants. They of course had made their fortunes through using their positions and connections. The amazing thing about all of this is that it is rarely possible to try anyone and convict him on these grounds. The system itself is not built to do so. In democratic and advanced nations, which had learned from experience, corruption laws were developed over the years to ensure that public officials would not abuse office. Those countries have established systems of checks and balances that protect against all sorts of corruption cases or abuse of office. They usually include a general statement in the basic law that makes profiteering through the holding of a public office a crime. Then, and through their general laws, they detail and describe what constitutes abuse of office and its corresponding punishment. The case currently being debated at the Lower House of Parliament, which concerns a former prime minister and two ex-ministers should be used as well as pursuing indictment as a model for investigating the loopholes in our system. Despite our belief that political and electoral gains are behind some of the motives to open the case, and the case itself may be weak, we are not and would never advocate dropping it. But we dread the prospect that our Parliament should be wasting its and our time on a futile issue. In any case, we strongly believe that the exercise should be used to consolidate the related laws currently being debated at the House itself. No matter which way the case goes, it is the political and judicial system that needs to be tried, judged and ultimately corrected.

Implications of Corruption Case Noted

JN3007070592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30-31 Jul 92 p 1

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad: "Debate on 'Corruption' Case—a Political Landmark"]

[Text] Amman—Beyond its huge legal implications, the Lower House of Parliament's open debate on a "corruption" case, in which former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and ex-ministers Hanna 'Awdah and Mahmud Hawamidah are implicated, is an unprecedented exercise which could change the political scene in the country.

Some analysts believe that it has already created significant change if only because it proved that democracy has institutionalised the rule of the law and that all people are equal before that law.

"The change in the political scene has already taken place," an observer of Parliament told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "Regardless of the merits of the case, there is an obvious new element now and it is that no one is above the law and everyone is accountable."

For most deputies who spoke during Monday's session of the House, the issue of whether or not to open old "corruption" cases was resolved in favour of unveiling all cases of past "corruption" and trying all those who are indicted. One deputy, however, told the House that Jordan needed all the loans and grants it could get and that the ongoing debacle threatens to make the Kingdom look like a "school of embezzlement."

But that was a lone voice among many who, regardless of their personal motives, stressed the need to fight corruption even when they were defending one or more of the three officials involved in this particular case.

And apart from a consensus in Parliament on this need, cabinet members also feel that Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government has "gained credibility from this debate."

"There is a clear message that we are more credible and that all people are equal before the law," a member of the government told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "Without this credibility a government cannot function."

Observers and analysts are describing Monday's debate as a "soul-searching session" where deputies, after three years of apparent inaction, have dug up one case and "seem to have burdened it with all their feelings of guilt over not fulfilling the promises they made to their constituents in 1989 when they were elected," as one of the analysts put it.

Now that general elections is only one year away, many observers believe that this case of alleged corruption has been brought to purpose [as published] in the hope that deputies can reap its benefits in the upcoming elections.

Minister of Labour 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, addressing the House Monday in his capacity as a deputy from Ma'an, said: "It appears that the election-campaign season has opened."

Other deputies termed it differently. "Let this session be one of honesty, openness and courage in which we are honest with ourselves and with the people who put their trust in us," Irbid Deputy Husni al-Shayyab told the House.

Although "political opportunism" may have been apparent in Monday's discussions, analysts believe that "even a little bit of political acting is sanctioned in democracy."

What really matters is the emergence of a "combination of accountability" in the executive and legislative branches of governments, said one analyst. In that sense the political implications of the case will outweigh its legality, especially that lawyers and many deputies believe that the case will remain a political indicator of Jordan's democratic evolution but will fall short of bringing the three officials to trial by a special court.

A two-third majority of the House (53 votes) is needed to refer the case to trial. It seems difficult since at least 15 members have so far absented themselves from the debate. Furthermore, lawyers among the House members have expressed doubt that whether there are legal grounds for indictment of the three officials and have thus created doubt among the undecided.

If the same number of deputies absented themselves from next Monday's debate as the case was last Monday, it would be very difficult to muster enough support for the motion to refer the case to trial. Only 63 or 64 deputies are expected to attend the session.

Another point to consider is that the House is expected to vote for or against indictment on a one by one basis. The deputies will be asked to vote publicly on the charges against each of the three officials by name. This could lead to the indictment of only one of the three former officials and analysts expect Mr. Hawamidah to be the one to be singled out.

Further on Army Takeover of al-Biqa' Barracks

NC3007174792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] At 1300 today a mechanized force of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade took over the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk, which has been under Hizballah's control since 1983. The force—composed of 155 tracked vehicles and 20 trucks and jeeps—was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Husayn al-Laqis, official in charge of intelligence in al-Biqa'.

Hasan Bjayji, official in charge of Hizballah's security committee, welcomed the arrival of the Lebanese Army on the basis of safeguarding the nationalist and Islamic Resistance.

The Army Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement:

In implementation of the Council of Ministers' decision to repossess state property seized by others, and in continuation of previous operations, between last night and noon today Army forces have regained control of the following buildings and properties: Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk, the Archaeological Directorate buildings in Jubayl Port and Burj al-Fidar, the Agricultural School building in Ghazir, the Agriculture Ministry buildings in [name indistinct] Sarafand, Prince al-Amin and Prince Qasim palaces in Bayt al-Din, and (al-'Aqim) Palace.

Hizballah Radio Reports Ceremony

NC3107072392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] After a decision by the Hizballah leadership, the Lebanese Army took over the Imam 'Ali Barracks [Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks] in Ba'labakk at noon yesterday in the presence of members of Hizballah's Security Committee; Colonel Michel Rahbani, director of Lebanese Army intelligence; his assistant, Colonel Jamil al-Sayyid; Lieutenant Colonel Husayni al-Laqis, director of the Lebanese Army intelligence branch in al-Biqa'; and Colonel Shakir 'Akkash, the officer responsible for the Syrian security service in the region.

Speaking on behalf of Hizballah, Abu-Hilal Bujayji called on the Army to uphold its decision to defend the people and the resistance, saying: The Islamic Resistance began in this barracks, and our houses and this barracks will remain the headquarters for every resistance man and for the Army as long as it serves the cause of fighting the Israeli enemy.

This is a critical and difficult stage, and everyone must shoulder their full responsibility, he said, adding: We live and die, live and are martyred, under the banner of the leadership of the Hizballah nation, led by His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyed Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslim cause.

Bujayji pledged to the Islamic Resistance's greatest martyr ['Abbas al-Musawi], all the martyrs, the orphans, the wounded, the bereaved, the mujahidin, the leader of the Islamic nation, and his holiness Imam Khomeyni that this movement will continue to fight the Zionist enemy and its agents.

Bujayji emphasized the need for the Army command to recover the barracks in the occupied border strip.

Hostage Evidence Said Destroyed

NC3007145092 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Ba'labakk, July 30 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah handed over a barracks to the Lebanese Army Thursday after destroying cells where the group is believed to have once held Western hostages.

Sixteen Army tanks, nine troop carriers and seven trucks rolled into the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks here on Thursday after Hizballah militants removed furniture, documents, weapons and equipment from the compound, which they had controlled since 1982.

A Hizballah spokesman said basement cells were blown up with dynamite before the militants completed their withdrawal overnight Tuesday.

According to Western media reports, Western hostages were held in the basement rooms. Hizballah has always denied holding hostages.

Relatives of Lebanese nationals who disappeared during the 16-year civil war also believe that some of their kin were abducted by Hizballah and kept at the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks. About 2,000 Lebanese are still missing and their relatives have urged the government to question Hizballah.

Hizballah security chief Hasan Bjayji said the militants had "no remorse in handing over the barracks in the hope that the Army will support the anti-Israeli resistance" movement in south Lebanon.

Last week the Syrian-backed Lebanese Government instructed the Army to recover state-owned property that had been illegally seized during the civil war. Syrian officers were present for the handover of the barracks.

Further on Junblatt Remarks on Army Operations

NC3007114592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] State Minister Walid Junblatt held a news conference at al-Mukhtarah Palace this morning during which he criticized the Lebanese Army's repossession of the National Library at the Amir Amin Palace Hotel and the Bayt al-Din Palace. He announced that he is suspending his participation in the cabinet until this problem is resolved. Junblatt asked what the sense is in doing all this. He noted that this is a dangerous sign, saying: We are not in favor of escalating the situation, but we ask the

Lebanese authorities what point they want to reach with these steps. He reminded it of the fate of the displaced people, the implementation of Resolution 425, and other agreed-upon issues.

Junblatt called for the withdrawal of the Army from Bayt al-Din Palace and Amir Amin Palace Hotel and the formation of a committee to supervise Lebanese antiquities, so the mountain will not flare up with fighting. He called for bringing to account the officials responsible for these measures and expressed surprise at how the state could associate the [Lebanese Forces] War Council Building with Bayt al-Din Palace.

Information Minister Comments

NC3007131992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has confessed that a kind of transgression against rights and dignity has taken place. Our radio asked Samahah to comment on what happened in B'aqlin and on the resignation of Ministers Walid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah. He said: I will not comment for the moment, because I do not see a need to escalate matters. We want to resolve the situation and safeguard everyone's rights and dignity.

Concerning the resignations, Samahah said: I call on Ministers Junblatt and Hamadah, who have always been in positions of responsibility, not to resign but to work with us to resolve all problems.

Samahah said that there are solutions being discussed and actions that may be taken, declining to go into details. He promised to speak about the matter in more detail tomorrow.

Samahah Meets Junblatt

NC3107040392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah arrived in al-Mukhtarah at 1700 today, where he met with Minister Walid Junblatt. Deputy Ayman Shuqayr and Mr. Ghazi al-'Aridi also attended the meeting.

Minister Samahah said afterward that the meeting's purpose was to consult Junblatt on possible ways to ease the tension and restore the normal situation within the context of full respect for the status of al-Shuf, the noble Druze community, and the legitimate Lebanese authorities and Army and to handle the political authority's decision in a way that preserves everyone's rights and dignity.

Samahah said that Junblatt is handling the matter prudently and positively and is cooperating to emerge from the circumstance that developed today and are casting shadows on this week's events. He added: Finally, I believe that with great hearts and minds and with responsible and good behavior by all parties, we may quickly overcome what we face today. We are not facing legal or legitimate impediments regarding the status of Bayt al-Din Palace, al-Amir Amin Palace, and B'aqlin's National Library. He noted that the situation must be resolved.

Samahah returned in the evening to the provisional presidential headquarters, where he met the president.

Defense Minister Comments

NC3107040792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr returned to Beirut from Paris today. He commented on the stands of Ministers Walid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah by saying: The Lebanese Army is implementing the cabinet's decisions. The cabinet has made a decision and the Army is implementing it. This means that no one can object to the implementation of the decision. When the cabinet decides to stop the implementation of its decision in a certain area, the Army will comply. The Army is an instrument; we, the political branch, tell it what to do.

Al-Murr added: This matter does not call for negotiations. Either the state will act as a state and the Army as an Army or we will keep making concessions and achieve nothing.

Druze Stage Sit-In

NC3107113092 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] A peaceful general strike was observed throughout the national areas of the Mountain today. Citizens hurried to join the sit-in, called by Walid Junblatt, at the National Library building. The protesters want the Army to withdraw from the library and al-Amir Amin and Bayt al-Din Palaces, and for a national committee to be set up to oversee the mountain's cultural and tourist sites.

Popular delegations have been pouring into B'aqlin since this morning to take part in the sit-in, which has been going on since yesterday at noon. Signs were posted calling for the recovery of the library and palaces as cultural sites that stress freedoms and reject the authority's measures.

Phalangist Leader Urges Peaceful Repossessions

NC2707201892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Speaking at a meeting of the Phalangist Political Bureau, the Consultative Committee, and the Central Council that started at 1700, party leader Minister George Sa'adah said he hopes the state uses all peaceful means at its disposal to carry out its goal of repossessing state property. The people, he added, have a right to ask the state to return their confiscated, occupied, and stolen property. The state is not the only one responsible for its property.

Sa'adah discussed the state's goal of repossessing property and the elections issue, saying: The two issues are related, but we need to deal with them separately.

We and all the other leaders have always called for the extension of the state's power throughout Lebanese territory and the imposition of law and order, he continued, adding: We have gone repeatedly on record making these demands. The problem was not in extending the state's power, but in whether the appropriate method has been used to spare everyone unnecessary complications, he noted.

Sa'adah said: Everyone knows that the state has property that was seized by many groups. We hope that all peaceful methods will be used to restore the state's possessions. The state has a right to take back its property, and the people, foremost the refugees, have a right to ask the state to restore their possessions to them. The state's responsibility does not end when it has restored its own property. [passage omitted]

The Phalangist leader discussed the party's stand on the elections law, saying that the party's stand on the law is clear regardless of whether people want to cast doubt on it. Sa'adah said: The Political Bureau will make the decision about the elections. It is currently gathering information and will make a decision in due course. [passage omitted]

Security Council Extends UNIFIL Mandate

NC3107072992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 92

[Correspondent dispatch from New York]

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has renewed the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for six more months. The council attached a statement to the renewal decision expressing the member states' commitment to Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The statement calls on all countries to refrain from using or threatening to use force, and reiterated its support for the al-Ta'if Accord. The statement commends the Lebanese Government's efforts to deploy the Army in southern Lebanon in coordination with UNIFIL. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the statement does not mention Israel; however, it does refer to the urgent need to fully implement UN Resolution 425, expressing concern at what it describes as mutual violence in the south. The statement regrets the civilian casualties and urges all parties to exercise self-restraint.

Israelis, SLA Conduct Operations in South

NC3007115192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli air raids today were accompanied by heavy artillery fire from the occupation forces' positions in the al-Zaffatah Hills. An eight-year-old child was seriously wounded and hospitalized. The shelling also caused heavy property damage.

Tibnit came under intense sniper fire at 1015 today from the occupation forces' positions on 'Ali Tahir Hill. Qasim Muhammad al-Hayik was wounded and taken to Hammud Hospital in Sidon.

The agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army—SLA] established a mobile checkpoint on the Arnun-Yuhmur-al-Shaqif road at 0700 today, carefully searching people and vehicles and questioning some citizens.

It also has been reported that a joint Israeli-Lahdist force this morning entered Arnun village, searched houses, and arrested Khalil J'arah.

Prime Minister's Visit to France Reviewed

NC3107080292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh's four-day visit to France has led to two major results, one political and the other economic. On the political side, France reiterated its backing for Lebanon's quest to consolidate its sovereignty, independence, freedom, and accord among the Lebanese people. It also said it would renew its support for Lebanon at international forums in an effort to implement UN Resolution 425 and exercise the state's authority throughout Lebanese territory. France renewed its support for Lebanon in the Arab-Israeli peace talks in accordance with the principles of the Madrid conference.

On the domestic front, Paris highlighted the need to implement the al-Ta'if Accord in its entirety and for parliamentary elections to be free of pressure. France emphasized that the Lebanese Army needs to deploy in all Lebanese territories in accordance with the timetable specified in the al-Ta'if Accord. France renewed its confidence in the Lebanese Government's ability to fulfill the hopes of the Lebanese people in a new parliament that will embody the will of the Lebanese people and meet their aspirations for a sovereign, free, and independent homeland. These firm stands were relayed to Prime Minister al-Sulh by French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and several other political figures with whom al-Sulh has met.

On the economic level, the talks held with French officials led—on the direct instructions of President Mitterrand and Minister Beregovoy—to an agreement to reschedule Lebanon's debts with France, which amount to approximately $200 million. The debt will be repayed in installments beginning in 1994 and ending in 1995, provided the Lebanese Government makes a down payment of approximately 10 percent by the end of this year. The French Government has extended a grant of 10 million French francs to Lebanon, in addition to an

earlier grant of 18 million francs. The French Government also agreed to extend to Lebanon a long-term loan on easy terms to the tune of approximately 65 million French francs with a 2.5-percent interest rate. The French Government will examine the possibility of rehabilitating the Lebanese Finance Ministry and providing it with the necessary equipment for the ministry to properly carry out its duties. [passage omitted]

According to Lebanese delegation sources, President Mitterrand was eager to stress that he would personally follow up these results during his meeting with Prime Minister al-Sulh at the Elysee Palace at 1800 yesterday. The meeting was not originally listed on the agenda of Prime Minister al-Sulh's visit, but President Mitterrand made this gesture to stress the strength and depth of Lebanese-French relations. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the 25-minute meeting with President Mitterrand, attended by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, al-Sulh described his talks as very satisfactory, noting that parliamentary elections will be held in an atmosphere of complete freedom and that the Lebanese Government will not interfere in the elections. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Stresses Support for Resistance

NC2907090192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "We Elect Resistance for the Future of Our Nation"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We do not dole out funds, nor do we make promises and pledges. But we will vote in the homeland's interest with resistance, martyrdom, and blood. We want a noble future for our nation. We vote with our blood for the resisting Lebanon, the Lebanon that is opposed to Israel. We vote for martyrdom and the homeland of freedom, the homeland where all sectarian and factional barriers should be toppled. We vote for resistance in the interest of the dignity that a human being should experience so that he will not continue as a prisoner of accounts and accountabilities, the prisoner of his own needs—needs which are controlled by a handful of people who do not hesitate to suck the people's blood or squander their honor. These people have assumed as their major profession the usurpation of rights and dignities, through which they pave the way for their chieftainships, objectives, and designs. Our ambitions are to stamp our voting card with our resistance because nothing is nobler or more sacrificial than blood. [passage omitted]

We are not saying this to arouse the people, but to advise them and show our sympathy. We confirm to our kinsfolk and brothers that today they have some freedom to express themselves and decide, even if partially, part of their destiny. In such a breathing space of freedom, man needs only be alert, aware, and responsible, and attempt not to be led like a sheep during these difficult times. Man cannot think positively about anyone. He must examine, choose, experience, and test things. Therefore, voting is man's legitimate responsibility, exactly like his duty to pray, fast, and the rest of his religious duties. In fact, it is even more than that, because it is a story and a cause of allegiance [mubaya'ah]. We either express our allegiance to the imams of justice so that they can practice justice and the nation can enjoy it under their rule, or we express our allegiance to the imams of oppression so that the whole nation will experience nightmares and terror. Everyone then would be thrust into the dark tunnel until eternity.

Hizballah Discusses 'Surgical Strike' on Iraq

NC2707112492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "Bush and His Surgical Strikes"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] George Bush met in Camp David with his senior national security aides, including, of course, his deputy and chief of intelligence, his defense secretary, the head of the Congressional defense committee, the White House chief of staff, and the official spokesman.

After two hours of discussions, the conferees emerged to comment on a possible surgical strike against what remains of Iraq. A surgical strike, as implied by the phrase, indicates a new, limited attack that will not kill the patient being operated on, but cure him of a disease which cannot be dealt with conventionally.

This is the media's first step in promoting U.S. aggression. This is a modern (?crime) which has the appearance of a humane act, perpetrated by the world's arch Satan, leader of arrogance, and world policeman.

All world media report that Bush and his senior aides have decided to reserve the right to a surgical strike.

Gentlemen: Who is the one who brings you to account; measures the size of your strike; or examines it to see whether the strike is lethal or surgical, cosmetic or criminal, or whether it is a deterring, military, and legitimate or aggressive, colonial, and criminal strike? Are you truly concerned about human rights in Iraq, Kuwait, and the world, and do you seek to rescue the Iraqi people in the south and the north from a dictator who used napalm and mustard gas to burn them? If so, then why did you encourage and arm him against the Iranian people for 10 years? If so, why did you destroy everything in Iraq and spare Saddam, the root of the problem? So you would still have a pretext to use and experiment with your new weapons against live targets?

The U.S. crime against the world's oppressed nations is no longer a secret to anyone. The latest Camp David meeting, with its decisions and plots, will be no different from the previous Camp David meeting. For the Arabs, the outcome is absolutely clear as the surgical strikes against the Islamic nation continue.

Arming Saddam and encouraging him in the early 1980's to launch a war against the Islamic Republic was, in the view of Camp David, a preemptive measure and surgical strike against Iran's Islamic revolution. The second Gulf war also was a surgical strike to destroy the weapons stockpiled in Baghdad, which it was feared might be used against Tel Aviv.

The incomplete, unjust settlement talks, initiated by Washington after it triumphed in what it dubbed World War III in the Gulf, also are a type of diplomatic surgical strike under which we are still laboring, traveling between Madrid, Moscow, Washington, and finally Rome, and who knows where else.

Within the context of these surgical, cosmetic, preemptive strikes falls Baker's latest tour of our capital cities, Bush's latest threats against what remains of Iraq after the secession of Kurdistan, the Ankara-Tel Aviv meeting [not further specified], and the joining of the Arab Maghreb and Hejaz [Saudi Arabian] Jews [reference to pro-Jewish Arabs] with the ranks of the Jews known to the public.

The most painful and ugliest of all the common diseases that threaten our nation with death is that we have become like a sick man with a heritage that makes mouths water. The United States wages even its domestic election campaigns at the expense of our heritage and dignity, and Turkey speaks about its new role in our countries, its right to our waters, and its desire to make us thirsty in broad daylight.

Will one of the surgical strikes against our body turn lethal? Will our nation's body remain stretched under anesthesia on the criminal surgeons' table? Only God knows the unforeseen and takes care of liberation, but on the condition that the people know how to ward off the effects of the anesthetic. God is the guardian of the faithful.

Al-Asad Invited to Nonaligned Summit in Jakarta

JN3007182792 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Indonesian President Suharto inviting him to the 10th Nonaligned Movement summit in Jakarta from 1 to 6 September. Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar handed the message to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening. The directors of the Asia and Organizations Departments and the Indonesian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Comment on Damascus Coordination Meeting Results

JN2807171992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: If the final statement of the Damascus coordination meeting has dissatisfied the Israelis, it has comforted all Arabs. It has entrenched pan-Arab constants and the Arabs' adherence to restoring all their territories and rights without relinquishing one iota or compromising them. The final statement has also laid firm foundations for a unified Arab position in which it is impossible for Israel to find a crevice to infiltrate through in an attempt to circumvent the crux of the peace process.

Israeli Government officials hastened to accuse the Arabs of adopting a hard-line position. They accused Syria in particular. They clearly saw Syria's fingerprints in the final statement issued by the foreign ministers. Syria has actually called and has always called on the Arabs to adopt an honorable pan-Arab position to please the present and future generations, a position based on adherence to rights and land and on work for a genuine and just peace that ends all forms of occupation and enables the Palestinian people to restore their freedom and exercise their right to a free, honorable life far from threats, aggression, coercion, and oppression. All Arabs have experienced Israel's practices and false promises. A statement made by Rabin or anyone else will not be able to change their convictions unless they see a tangible change on the ground of the Israeli policies. Israel is still far from the essence of peace. We have not heard from Rabin anything about his readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. It is true that he spoke about autonomy for the Palestinians, but he pledged not to discuss the final status of the occupied territories before an Israeli referendum. Awaiting this alleged referendum, settlements will continue in the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, and the Jordan Valley. All kinds of settlements not only contradict peace, but are also a flagrant provocation to the Arabs and the international community.

Israeli circles did not conceal their dissatisfaction with Washington's attempts to hold the sixth round of bilateral talks during the first half of August, taking into consideration that Rabin has always expressed his readiness to begin the talks. Observers attributed the retreat in Rabin's enthusiasm to the Damascus statement. The latter also made proposals aimed at dividing the proposed settlement and concluding separate deals. However, all these proposals failed and reinforced Arab determination to confront Israel with a unified position based on the inevitability of restoring all the occupied Arab territories on all fronts, and of achieving all Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. In other words, Rabin will find in the coming peace talks a true firm Arab front and one voice. He had hoped that the Arabs would arrive at the talks separately and divided. Despite this, we say that the sixth round is the touchstone. The Arabs who agreed on resuming the bilateral peace talks will, during the sixth round, directly discuss the substantial issues, foremost of which is the full commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and all the calls included in them to achieve the Palestinian people's rights and to fully withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

In light of Israel's response or lack of response to the conditions of the desired just settlement, the world will decide whether the new Israeli leaders actually seek peace in the region, or if they are just maneuvering to obtain the American and European loans to continue with their settlement projects.

Demirel's Statements on Euphrates Criticized

JN3007152392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When one discusses relations and the sharing of natural resources among countries, it is not possible to talk about partnership or sovereignty outside the framework of international laws and regulations. There can be no partnership or sovereignty over resources if this partnership or sovereignty encroaches upon the boundaries of international law and legitimacy.

We do not think that any dispute over issues of sovereignty or sharing of natural resources among countries is hard to solve within the framework of that equation, which accurately defines the limits of sovereignty and frameworks of partnership. This is defined by international laws and regulations. However, when there are longstanding historical relations between two countries closely linked by religion, culture, and good neighborliness, as is the case in relations between Syria and Turkey, it will be strange if a problem arises over sharing what was granted to these two countries by nature and God's will, as well as what was defined by bilateral agreements and international charters, in addition to these ties and links.

Such a problem would certainly not be strange if it was raised by a party such as Israel, which is still acting as an intruder in the region and has no concern other than accomplishing its ambitions by seizing as much territory and wealth and as many resources as it can. Everyone

knows that Israel does not give any weight to international pledges and charters, and does not hesitate to use force at certain times, and any other methods it deems fit at other times, to achieve its goals.

Hence, it was natural for Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's statements to raise many questions about their motives, justifications, and timing. Astonishment at these statements was not confined to media and political circles in Syria; it extended to all parts of the Arab homeland. These circles believe that such statements seriously harm the common interests of both Turkey and its Arab neighbors. The major question was whether raising this problem was specifically aimed at serving parties that are hostile to the Arabs and Muslims, and their causes, and which harbor ambitions against their resources and wealth.

Nothing, as we said, justifies raising such a stir. Turkey is not suffering from any shortage of water and regardless of the number of dams it builds on the Euphrates, the river's overflowing waters will continue to run through the neighboring countries along a course defined by nature and topography. The course of the Euphrates River cannot be confined by narrow concepts of sovereignty. Hence, international norms and agreements have organized the sharing of water resources. These international charters are binding to all countries linked by relations of good neighborliness, friendship, and concord. We do not think that Turkey's relations with its Arab neighbors differ from this.

It is certain that raising such a problem has dimensions that go beyond the framework of common interests between Turkey and any of its Arab neighbors—interests which all Arabs are seeking to reinforce and broaden in the interest of the Arab and Turkish peoples.

Proceeding from this particular concern, we in Syria hope that these Turkish statements do not represent a constant official policy, because this would surely harm joint relations, close ties, and interests between Turkey and the Arab countries.

Perhaps it is our right to expect that the upcoming visit to Damascus by Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Hikmet Cetin will dissipate many doubts and apprehensions created by these statements, so that matters may return undisturbed to their normal channels.

Need for 'Fair Agreement' Noted

JN3007074992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 30 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In a political analysis under the headline "A Fair Agreement on the Tigris and Euphrates Serves the Interests of Neighboring Peoples and States," AL-BA'TH says: The recent Turkish stand has drawn broad reaction from various Arab and international political and media circles, which have deemed the recent Turkish statement to be in contrast with the existing cordial relations between Syria and Turkey, the two neighboring states.

In its analysis, AL-BA'TH explains that many politicians, journalists, and international law experts have stressed that no state whose waters run across or by its border should control such waters and use them in a manner that harms the rights of other concerned states.

Officials Receive Russian Industry Minister

JN2807174092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus—Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, today received Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff, and Lieutenant General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of staff.

The discussions dealt with bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, as well as means to promote and consolidate them.

Economic Issues Discussed

JN3107071092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting was held last night at the Ministry of Economy between the Syrians, led by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Russians, led by Aleksandr Titkin, minister of industry. Views on the development of bilateral economic relations based on new and firm principles were exchanged during the meeting. Minister of Electricity Kamil al-Baba and Minister of Finance Khalid al-Mahayini also attended the talks on behalf of Syria.

DPRK Vice Premier Concludes Visit, Departs

JN3007183292 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Kim Yong-nam, DPRK vice premier and foreign affairs minister, left Damascus this evening following a two-day visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Korean ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to SANA, Kim Yong-nam praised the strong Syrian-DPRK ties of friendship. He said he held successful talks with Syrian officials and stressed that the DPRK stands by Syria against the challenges facing it and supports its national stands toward just Arab causes. He wished the Syrian Arab people continued progress, prosperity, and success under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Views Uzbek, Pakistani Relations

BK3007063292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] It is expected that trilateral talks between the leaders of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan will be held next month to promote and strengthen the present fraternal relations between the three countries. This was stated by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani while speaking to Pakistani Amabassador Amir Usman, who called on him in Kabul yesterday. President Rabbani said he and Uzbek President Nazarbayev will visit Islamabad at the invitation of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to attend Pakistan's independence day celebrations [14 August]. He added that the trilateral talks will review the implementation of the agreements already concluded between the three countries.

Delegation Returns 23 Jul

LD2507090892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] An Afghan delegation led by Esteemed Sayyed Mohammad Ayub, minister adviser for construction and labor affairs, returned home yesterday after visitin Pakistan last week at the invitation of the Pakistani Government.

During the visit to Pakistan, the Afghan delegation met and conferred with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. During the course of these meetings, which took place in a climate of friendship and Islamic brotherhood, the Pakistani leaders expressed their support for the Afghan Government and stated their readiness to assist in Afghan reconstruction.

The Afghan delegation also attended the tripartite talks held between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, and signed memoranda of understanding on tripartite cooperation with Pakistan and Uzbekistan concerning [words indistinct], strategic highways, and survey and construction of [passage indistinct].

According to another report, after discussions with Pakistani authorities, the Afghan delegation signed memoranda of understanding on bilateral cooperation with Pakistan on the construction of [passage indistinct] for posts and telecommunications, and on the reconstruction and repair of roads.

Rabbani Receives Message From Saddam Husayn

LD3007200992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Mr. Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, has sent a congratulatory message to esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his election as president.

The message conveyed sincere congratulations and expressed the hope that the Muslim people of Afghanistan, under the banner of Islamic fraternity, will achieve national unity and succeed in realizing the objectives of the Nonaligned Movement under Rabbani's leadership.

Former Khad Man Survives Assassination Attempt

BK3007163492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 30 (AFP)—A former commander of the defunct Afghan secret service, Khad, survived an assassination attempt Thursday during which his driver was killed, an Army officer said. This was the second time three-star General Baba Jan had survived an attempt on his life. The assailant, a soldier under the general's command, was arrested after he opened fire with a machine gun and said he had been hired by a Mojahedin group to do the job.

Baba Jan survived an earlier attempt to kill him last month when a bomb exploded near his car outside his home in Kabul.

He was associated with Khad during the rule of former president Babrak Karmal and also under his successor Najibollah.

After the Mojahedin took over power in April, caretaker president Sebghatollah Mojadeddi promoted him from lieutenant general to colonel general.

The general, who is blamed by many Mojahedin for Khad atrocities during the communist regime, is a Tajik from the northern province of Parwan.

The attempt follows a spate of earlier murders. A senior Pashtun officer of the Foreign Ministry, 'Abdol Ahad Wolesi, was slain by unidentified gunmen here four days ago. The murder of Wolesi, former governor of Ghazni Province and ex-ambassador to Bangladesh, was widely believed to be an act of revenge. He was accused by Mojahedin of having conducted a brutal campaign against Mojahedin sympathizers during his governorship. In May, a week after the Mojahedin entered Kabul, 'Abdol Karim Shadan, chief of the Supreme Court, was abducted from his home and his body was later found lying in a road.

India

Kuwaiti Amir's Special Envoy Arrives for Talks

BK2507145492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The Kuwait information minister, Mr. Badr al-Ya'qub, arrived in New Delhi today as a special envoy of the amir of Kuwait. During his three-day stay in the

capital, he is expected to deliver a special message from the amir to the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Ya'qub will also meet the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and exchange views on bilateral cooperation. Mr. Ya'qub's visit assumes importance in the context of discussions now underway in the Security Council on Iraq and the growing tension between Iraq and the United Nations on the question of implementing the UN resolutions.

Spokesman Denies Mediation Request

BK2907153892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi had denied reports that Kuwait has desired India to mediate in its border dispute with Iraq. Replying to questions by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that no such request has been made by the Kuwaiti Government. He also described as incorrect the reports that the Government of Kuwait has not appreciated India's stand on the issue. He said during the talks with the special envoy of the amir of Kuwait, Mr. Badr al-Ya'qub, the Indian leaders reiterated New Delhi's commitment to the sanctity of UN resolutions.

Spokesman Welcomes Afghan Envoy's Views on Ties

BK2507051392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi has viewed the observations of the Afghan charge d'affaires, Mr. Zia'oddin Naseri, on relations with India as positive. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said yesterday that there have been reports in a section of the press that the Afghan Government's attitude has undergone a perspective change on matters relating to bilateral relations. The spokesman said the views expressed by Mr. Naseri are indicative of the objective approach of his country and will help in putting to rest doubts created by these reports.

Gujarat Urges Government To Seal Pakistan Border

BK2807082092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The Gujarat government has asked the center to seal the border with Pakistan to check arms smuggling into the country. Talking to newsmen in Gandhinagar, the home minister, Mr. Subodh Kant Pandya, said the state government will soon raise a commando force to combat terrorism.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Ground Forces Commanders

LD3007114892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Addressing various Army Ground Forces unit commanders, Ayatollah Khamene'i, Armed Forces commander in chief, stated that the presence of faithful and revolutionary youth in the Army will guarantee their health, power, bravery, capability, and success. He also praised the Army's unprecedented and selfless efforts during eight years of holy defense. During the meeting, the commander in chief stressed the need to align the Army's own general culture with pure Islamic culture. He then added that the presence of faithful and Hezbollah youth in the entire body of the Army and at its sensitive positions will ensure the strengthening of the Army's spiritual bonds with the nation giving the Army a higher degree of efficiency.

The esteemed leader called on the Army commanders to be diligent in guarding the capital of faith and their personal virtue. Then, addressing the commanders, he stated: You must take maximum care in preserving your religion, faith, virtue, and sincerity. That way you will be able to stop the enemy from finding his way to the sanctuary of your heart. The Army is constantly on the path of fighting for God, which is why the Army must always have the best individuals.

According to the same report, during the meeting, in which Major General Shahbazi, the Army Joint Staff chief, attended, Brigadier General Najafi, the Army's Ground Forces commander, submitted to the commander in chief a brief report about the Ground Forces' performance and the Officer Training College cadets' role in strengthening the force's command system.

Yazdi Leads Friday Prayers, Remarks on Bosnia

LD3107103492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The glorious Friday prayer rites were held today all over Iran with the mass of prayer givers present.

Delivering the Tehran Friday prayer sermons today, judiciary head Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the anniversary of the decree of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—about holding Friday prayers and on the beneficial effects of these rites on Islamic society. He said the 10-year experience of the life of the Islamic Republic of Iran shows that Friday prayers have played an important role in preserving the revolution and its glorious gains.

He then referred to the recent guidelines given by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i about the need for all of society's individual members to defend Islamic values and fight the Western cultural invasion. On that topic, he quoted a saying of His Holiness Imam Mohammad Baqir, peace be on him: To direct others to do good, one must be competent. That edict brings about highway security, legitimizes many incomes and occupations that people have, restores many rights to the people, and prevents many injustices. It helps build the country. It makes for fair encounters with those who oppose us and generally makes for a righteous and stable government.

Ayatollah Yazdi added: It is in line with these principles that the esteemed leader says propagating virtue and preventing vice must not be confied to topics such as improper cover by women. Anybody who commits a vice cannot prevent others from doing the same. One cannot stop an obvious crime being committed by committing another obvious crime.

The judiciary head added: A cabinet minister must manage his organization in a way that provides for workers performing their duties properly. He added: These are the vices that we must confront: failure to respect regulations regarding public assets; doing as one pleases; submitting to an easy life; profiteering; living on illegitimate earnings; a lack of hejab and a lax attitude in the society. All of us are duty bound to invite anybody who is guilty of these vices to abandon them.

Ayatollah Yazdi also condemned international organizations and those who claim to support human rights for their silence about the horrible crimes being committed against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina in the heart of Europe. To that end, he said: It is necessary for the international community to have a penal court that could be convened to give the required verdict when crimes, similar to those committed by the Serbs, are committed.

He also strongly condemned the Zionist regime's recent attacks against southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Yazdi thanked the Indian parliament for its move to stop construction of a Hindu temple in the vicinity of the Babri mosque.

Delivers Arabic Sermon

NC3107134192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic delivered by Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in Tehran on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother and sister Muslims worldwide, you have recently heard the important speech given by Ayatollah Khamene'i, guardian of the Muslims' cause, may God give him long life [crowd cheers], in which he called for learning from the al-Saff incident [not further specified] as related by Imam Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn, may God's peace be upon him. The speech throws light on a very interesting point: It is the duty of Muslims, under the circumstances, to know and sort out their most important tasks, because people always face a multitude of jobs, and if they do not set their priorities right, they will not progress, even if they work day and night. If tasks are prioritized, people will certainly be more successful, particularly regarding social issues concerning the Islamic nation, which is faced with daily crises everywhere.

Everyone of us is responsible before this nation. Once we discover our primary duty, we will naturally succeed in accomplishing it and achieve better results. Muslims today must realize that arrogance is their first enemy and that the arrogant powers do not want Islam to be restored to its original authority. These powers do not want to see the Muslims united under Islamic rule because they see Islam as a threat to their interests.

Tragic events are happening in Bosnia-Hercegovina, where the local population is being brutally displaced and expelled. The powers of arrogance refuse to take measures similar to those adopted against Iraq during the Gulf war and the occupation of Kuwait.

Look at the situation in occupied Palestine and the acts of injustice committed against the oppressed Palestinian people (?by) global arrogance, particularly the United States and Israel, whose hostile nature is known to everyone. It is sad to see certain politicians making overtures to the enemy, even though that enemy is only getting more hostile and more cruel daily.

The events in south Lebanon, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Central Asia—especially Azerbaijan and Armenia—serve as a warning that the Islamic world and Muslims must heed. Muslims should draw the line between friend and foe. Muslims must meet their obligations; negligence and lenience will only worsen the hegemony of arrogance.

Brother and sister Muslims, our hope is to restore Islam's glory. We must remember Karbala' and the struggle of Imam al-Husayn, peace be upon him and those who follow his example. Muslims should persevere, sacrifice, and unite. Glory to God, his prophet, and the faithful. I ask God forgiveness for you and myself. Peace be upon you.

Larijani Views U.S. Policy on Saddam Husayn

LD3107165992 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1520 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Interview with Majles Deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani by unidentified correspondent in the "Political Roundtable" program on 30 July—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Now the last question: What will be the final outcome of the confrontation between America and Iraq?

[Larijani] This may be one of the most important political questions in the current situation in the world; in one of the important regions. My interpretation is that America and the West are intent on removing Saddam. And the current situation does not mean that they want to keep this regime, because if they want to preserve this regime they cannot wreak such havoc on Iraq. But removing Saddam is conditional on two factors. One is that he should be removed when the current situation—that is, a trapped Saddam—has born its required results; I mentioned instances where there would be benefits for

America. The second point is the manner of removing of Saddam. The Americans do not wish this to come about through a popular movement. On the whole, the policy of the West is that popular movements in the Islamic world always entail the danger of the Muslims and Islamic sentiments coming to the fore and becoming powerful. Well, if they do not want this regime to be removed through the people, an intifadah, and opposition, what other ways remain? A coup d'etat or, for example, assassination. These require preparations beforehand and afterward. That means there is a need for some preliminaries for its implementation—it can always be upset—and there is also a need for preliminaries after its implementation. In my view, for those two reasons the Americans are still looking for an opportunity and seek to do this at some other time. In all probability in this situation they might even help Saddam's regime so that it does not collapse. Imagine a government whose total oil revenue is gone, its economic system has suffered heavy blows, its state has become dismembered and its army has fallen into a wretched situation. At the same time they do not let that regime cave in. I believe it to be strongly likely that the American themselves are giving a breathing space to Iraq so that, for the moment, the regime does not disintegrate and they can replace it within a larger framework. This is my prediction about the Iraqi situation, the future of the region and the American policy in the region.

[Correspondent] Do the Americans intend to use the presidential election period for such an act or is it possible that it can be at any time; that is, after the elections?

[Larijani] It is likely, but the probability is not very high. Especially if Bush loses in the election, the Democrats do not have that moral obligation toward, say public opinion, to definitely bring Saddam's regime down quickly. Therefore, maybe this is a crucial juncture from the Iraqi point of view as well. They also feel that if they go through this period easily, they will be in power longer. No, I do not find it strongly likely that the Americans will make an extensive move to topple Saddam because they won't do this through a military offensive either. It is possible that propaganda might increase. It is not unlikely for some ad hoc attacks for publicity purposes and the issue will be relegated to the next presidential period.

[Correspondent] Once again I thank you for taking part in this program.

Foreign Minister Returns From Talks in Italy

NC3107061992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who was on a visit to Italy, returned to Tehran this morning. The foreign minister told our correspondent that during this visit he conferred with Italian officials on bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations.

Dr. Velayati met Italian Foreign Trade Minister Claudio Vitalone to discuss progress in bilateral trade relations. Trade exchanges between Tehran and Rome will soon go through some major developments, Vitalone said.

Paper Voices Pessimism Over Ties With Britain

LD3107151992 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—A Tehran-based English newspaper believes that "understanding and restraint" with London has not worked nor will it work in the years to come.

"President (Akbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani and his foreign policy advisers will have to take stock of the public mood and the revolution's interest when dealing with Britain and its arrogance," says KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, adding that "we should strongly continue to say no to arrogant powers in all spheres. Our nation did it throughout the 8-year-old (Iraqi) imposed war and garnered respect for its values."

The article appearing in the paper's weekly edition Thursday, also says:

"Clearly, the road to resuming normal relations with Britain is not going to be easy. It never was. Those who have survived the two World Wars, eras of British domination in different colors and shade, the Pahlavi rule... believe that the Islamic Republic should, once and for all, forget the idea of restoring healthy ties with London.

"Talking to the academia and men who know how Britain's hostile diplomacy is trying to function these days, we get the impression that there is simply no one who favors Tehran's initiative to open a new page in its Anglo relations. When educated Iranians and respected professionals learn that the Rafsanjani administration is keen to explore new avenues to build a practical relationship with the West, they hope and pray that the firmer colonial power is not in the list.

"Even impartial Iranians are sensitive to London's name and you can't find students of history and political science who will not recommend the government to write-off the entire validity of this undertaking. No one says that it is impossible a mission, what is rather emphasized is the time element, the resisting political climate and the importance of sticking to the priority list vis-a-vis post-war foreign relations."

Turning to the case of Salman Rushdie, the paper strongly rejected the idea that he was the last hurdle to improved ties with London.

"Doubtless to say this edict (against Rushdie) remains a major controversy and there is no mood on either side to magnify the already fragile situation," it said, adding that "Iranian envoys have tried but failed to convince London about Rushdie's crime in hurting the religious sentiment of millions of practising Muslims."

In February 1989, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni issued a fatwa condemning the blasphemous writer for "The Satanic Verses" novel. Over the years Iranian diplomats of all ranks have told the British that in Iran there is no authority who can revoke the religious edict calling on Muslims worldwide to trace and kill Rushdie.

"Given the fact that no religious or political authority in the Islamic Republic would like to even think of negotiating the Tehran-London stalemate over Rushdie, there is a widespread feeling that the primary problem lies somewhere else," the article said.

Afghan President Reportedly To Visit 8 Aug

LD3007153492 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Afghan President Borhannodin Rabbani is to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran on August 8, according to a newspaper report here today.

If the visit does take place, it will be Rabbani's first visit to a foreign country after succeeding Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's transitional presidency last month.

Delegates from different parties and jihad forces of Afghanistan issued a resolution in Tehran and called on the Kabul government to speed up formation of an Islamic rule there and preserve the achievements of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

Observers here believe that Rabbani's visit to Iran is important because of good friendly and neighborly relations between Kabul and Tehran.

"More important is the fact that Mr. Rabbani has chosen the Islamic Republic of Iran as the first country he is to visit after taking over the presidency," TEHRAN TIMES quoted an observer on the condition he is not named.

Minister Promises To Assist Afghan Refugees

LD3007213992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The interior minister has announced: The return of Muslim Afghan refugees to their country has begun. The Islamic Republic of Iran will assist them in their return to their country with financial help and other preparations.

Mr. Nuri, who has gone to Tabriz to introduce the new governor general of East Azarbaijan Province, said: The people of Iran are currently hosts to 4 million refugees from Afghanistan and other countries of the world, including Iraqi Muslims. He stressed: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has promised to provide the necessary funds for the settlement and administration of Afghan refugees who return to their country. [passage omitted]

Russian Trade Minister Denies Arms Sales Report

LD3007141392 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, July 30, IRNA—Moscow Thursday denied reports published by Western press on Russia's arms sale to Iran.

The first channel of the Russian Television in its Thursday newscast quoting head of the Military and Technical Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Relations, denied a report carried by the French LE MONDE newspaper regarding sale of airplanes and other military ammunitions to Iran.

On the eve of the visit to Tehran of the Russian Minister of Foreign Trade Relations Petr Aven, Moscow-based newspapers have published various articles over the past three days on Russia's sale of armaments to Iran quoting Western newspapers .

Denying the reports, several Russian economic and military authorities claimed that the articles published by "rivals" are aimed at checking Moscow's influence in arms markets of the Persian Gulf region.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, published in Moscow, in an article Wednesday claimed that Moscow losing several of its major arms customers including Iraq, had sold arms worth 4.8 billion dollars to Iran.

The paper said that Moscow had not supplied iran With any ammunition between 1984 and 1987 but has sold 4.8 billion dollars worth of various military ammunition, including aircraft, tanks and submarines afterwards.

LE MONDE claimed in an article that Russia has sold some arms to Iran and intends to supply it with another 110 military aircraft.

Civil Aviation Cooperation Planned With Qatar

LD3007203592 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Qatar 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Naimi, and head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyan here Thursday met Iran's Roads and Transportation Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia.

In their meeting al-Naimi appreciated Iran's help to Qatar in the area of civil aviation, and recommended closer cooperaton between the two countries in that area.

The Iranian minister said in the future the two countries would be involved with more joint civil aviation projects.

It was also agreed that Gulf Air and Iran Air study prospects for their future cooperation.

ICO Envoy Holds Talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina

NC3107055692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Zanganeh, Iran's permanent representative to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], met ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Qabid in Jeddah yesterday to discuss regional and international events, primarily the problems of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Our permanent ICO representative called for the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the extraordinary ICO foreign ministers session on Bosnia-Hercegovina, stressing that contacts with UN Security Council members and European countries need to be maintained.

Zanganeh also met with representatives and ambassadors of Islamic countries and exchanged views with them on follow-up measures and the need for some urgent action to be taken to help the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Nakhichevan Premier Receives Delegation

LD3007060392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan has announced that Iran is the only supporter of the Muslim people of this war-torn republic.

Shamsoddin Khanbabayov, who was chosen as premier by the local assembly of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, met an Iranian delegation from Western Azerbaijan Province that is visiting Nakhichevan two hours after taking up the post.

Referring to the fact that the sincere assistance given by Iran without any expectations has led to the appreciation of the government and people of Nakhichevan, he thanked the Iranian authorities for the attention they have paid to the Muslim and oppressed people of that republic.

Karrubi Resigns Leadership of Martyrs' Foundation

LD3007163392 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Head of the Shahid (Martyrs) Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi today submitted his resignation to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. Along with his resignation, Karrubi also offered to the leader a 21-page report of the activities and services of the foundation since its establishment in 1980, and expressed hope that his successor will offer the best service to the people served by the foundation.

The Shahid Foundation is a welfare organization which caters to the various needs and problems of the relatives of martyrs, prisoners of war and wounded war veterans. Hoj. Karrubi who was the speaker of the third Majles before losing the new round of parliamentary elections held this year, was head of the Martyrs Foundation since its establishment.

[Tehran IRNA English at 1222 GMT on 30 July, in a Tehran-datelined item, adds the following: "Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Rahimiyan was today introduced as the acting head of the Martyr (Shahid) Foundation by outgoing head of the foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. In a farewell speech with the foundation's personnel, Karrubi appreciated the efforts of his former colleagues for rendering sincere services to the martyrs' families ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution. The former Majles speaker who failed to get a seat in the last parliamentary polls held earlier this year, also appealed to the foundation personnel to increase their services to the people. Rahimiyan has served at the foundation for two years as deputy to Hoj. Karrubi."]

New Eastern Azerbaijan Governor General Appointed

LD3007221292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Nuri, in a session of the Administrative Council of Eastern Azerbaijan Province, introduced Mr. 'Abdol 'Alizadeh as the new governor general of the province while prasing Mr. Parhizgar, the former governor general.

During the session, the interior minister referred to the economic and social planning problems of Eastern Azerbaijan Province, and said the way to face and eliminate those problems is to coordinate all the organs and executive authorities of the province.

'Huge Gang' of Forgers Uncovered in Bushehr

LD2807162792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The directors of the Bushehr Province Intelligence Department have discovered, arrested, and handed over to the judicial authorities a huge gang that specializes in forging official documents.

The gang's chief activity was forging official documents used by people to get out of the country across water borders and to travel to neighboring provinces. The forged documents included different categories of drivers' licenses, including motorcycle and crane licenses, car and motorcycle ownership documents, identification cards, graduation certificates and degrees, military service completion and exemption certificates, various fishing and sailing certificates, various permits to use boats and vessels, and visas for Kuwait. More than

20 forged seals were also confiscated from this gang, as well as car license plates and some bullets.

The equipment used to forge these official documents—totalling over 5,000 items—was also seized from the gang, which was active in Bushehr, Khuzestan, and Hormozgan Provinces. The gang was uncovered through the coordination by the judicial authorities and the efforts and alertness of the port and fisheries departments, law enforcement forces, and intelligence departments of these provinces.

SAIRI Head Urges Iraqis To Fight Regime

LD2807093592 Tehran IRNA in English 0458 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim, Monday urged the Iraqi people to take up arms against the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Referring to the brutal attacks of the Army against people in the southern marshlands of Iraq, Hakim reiterated in his message that their heinous plans would be foiled and freedom would be achieved through solidarity and unity of the Iraqi nation.

He urged the nation to donate whatever needed for the continuation of the jihad of the Mojahedin who are fighting against 'Saddam's flunkeys' in the southern marshlands.

The message also called on the Iraqis residing abroad to stage demonstrations in support of the Mojahedin.

UN Barracks in Northern Iraq Reportedly Attacked

LD2807124592 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] Kurdistan, July 28, IRNA—Barracks of United Nations troops in al-Sulaymaniyah, northeastern Iraq, were attacked by an unidentified armed group Monday resulting in heavy damage, said Iraqi Kurdish sources here today.

They told IRNA that no one was injured and attributed the attack to the Iraqi regime's agents in the region. However, the Baghdad regime has not yet shown any reaction in this connection.

It was the third attack on the U.N. troops since holding of the controversial elections for a so-called national assembly in Iraq's Kurdish populated north last month.

After each attack Baghdad and its Kurdish opponents had accused each other of being behind the incident.

Editorial Assails Western Support for MKO

NC2707132292 Tehran ABRAR (INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT) in English 16 Jul 92 p 16

[Editorial: "Europe's Propaganda War Against Iran"]

[Text] Following the declaration of support of the terrorist Monafeqin (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] by a number of U.S. Congressmen, 23 members of the British Parliament also declared their support for these terrorists, in order to put political, propaganda, psychological pressures on the Islamic Republic.

The support of parliaments of certain European countries and the U.S. Congressmen for the MKO was not an unexpected and new thing, but the coordination among them in simultaneous and synchronous declarations in support of the MKO shows that a guided media movement is underway to put further political pressure on the Islamic Republic.

The end of the saga of American and European hostages in Lebanon, in which the humanitarian mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran had a determining and eminent role, has now cleared the ground for pro-Zionist elements in the American and European legal bodies, to restart a campaign of hostilities against the Islamic system of Iran.

The declaration of a number of British MPs [members of parliament] supporting the MKO, coming shortly after the parliament's statement of backing for the apostate writer Salman Rushdie, proves the existence of a covert plot to attack the outer facade of the Islamic Republic. This conspiracy becomes even more sure when we learn that the European and American representatives have called on the United Nations to impose an arms and oil embargo against Iran.

After the elections for the fourth term of the Majles in Iran, the open political opposition of certain European countries like England, France, Italy and Germany, against Iran became clearer than ever. The MPs of Europe and America by issuing statements of support for the Monafeqin are meant to increase the economic, political and military pressures on the Islamic Republic, and impose their views on us.

Human rights and freedom of expression remain the constant excuse used by America and Europe to confront the Islamic Republic, particularly in giving credibility to the MKO.

The British government which will hold the rotating E.C. presidency for the next six months, wants the resolution of the Salman Rushdie issue, and the removal of the death decree against him. Through using international propaganda, London is trying to use Rushdie as yet another tool against the Islamic Republic. The parliaments of Europe, America, Canada, Italy and England in declaring their support for the MKO proved that they

collaborated with these terrorists in damaging and setting fire to embassies of Islamic Republic in several European countries.

Moreover, simultaneous with the trip of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Germany, Bonn had permitted the MKO to stage demonstrations against the Islamic Republic. This itself shows the hypocrisy of the German government. The Iranian representative offices in Germany were the ones which suffered the most damage and destruction during the terrorist attacks of the MKO.

The MPs of the British House of Commons had tied their highest hopes to the Iranian monarchist groups. But now their support of the Monafeqin at such a high level indicates their dismay at the impotence of the promonarchist groups.

Many international political commentators predict that pressures of the West, in the political, media and psychological fields, will increase in the forthcoming months.

But they also stress that the recent support of certain Western parliamentarians for the MKO, whose terrorist nature is known in international circles, is enough to discredit and devalue this group of MPs politically.

Pakistan

Further on Cancellation of Opposition Protest

BK3007100592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] A government opposition showdown in Sindh was averted as the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] announced postponement of a protest day scheduled in the province for Thursday. But the opposition, which saw the arrest of about 600 of its activists in the past 24 hours, made clear that the protest day would be observed throughout the rest of the country and Azad Kashmir. The situation was approaching a boil because the PDA appeared adamant to go ahead with its protest, while the Sindh administration had imposed Section 144 in the province and looked equally determined to thwart opposition plans.

The Sindh administration's resolve was reflected in a crackdown which started in the early hours of Wednesday and saw hundreds of arrests province wide.

Although opposition leader Syed Qaim Ali Shah told a press conference on Wednesday that the PDA postponed demonstrations in Sindh because the federal and provincial governments hatched a conspiracy to trigger violence through trained agents, independent sources listed a number of other factors.

A source maintained that the decision came following a meeting between Lt General Nassir Akhtar, the corps commander, 5 Corps on Monday and Aftab Shabau Mirami, who is an MNA [Member of the National Assembly] and a close confidant of Benazir Bhutto.

However, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and Senator Iqbal Haider—standing in for arrested Karachi PPP [Pakistan People's Party] chief Iqbal Yusuf—strongly denied any pressure from the army and said the decision was taken independently.

They attributed the postponement to the government's conspiracy whereby it wanted to trigger violence and use such a situation as a pretext to victimise and crush its political opponents.

Another object behind this conspiracy was to divert the attention of the masses from the real issues, they said, adding: "Therefore, the PDA has decided not to fall into this trap."

The PPP leaders said that after consulting the component parties of the alliance, they evolved a counter strategy not to stage protest rallies in the whole of Sindh.

According to Sindh government sources, former chief minister Aftab Shaban Mirani was actually summoned by the corps commander and told to convey to his party's high command the army's annoyance with the PPP agitation at the present state of the army operation in Sindh.

But PPP sources disputed this view and said that the decision was taken after the party was informed that Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) was planning to capitalise on PDA's protest day by triggering violence and blaming it on the alliance.

Additionally, sources said, the army came up with the position that it did not want to give the MQM an opportunity to protest. "How could the army obstruct MQM's agitation if it allowed the PPP to protest?" asked an observer.

Although Mirani remained unavailable for comment on his meeting with the corps commander Syed Qaim Ali Shah also said the corps commander Syed Qaim Ali Shah also said the party could not afford to jeopardise the coming requisitioned Sindh assembly session.

However, Qaim Ali Shah's rationale did not hold much water with political observers, particularly when viewed against PPP's record of pulling off surprises in the Sindh Assembly, a Assembly [as published], a record that is abysmal to say the least.

A key figure of the Sindh administration, who termed the decision "expected and not surprising," disclosed that the detained PPP leaders and activists will be released by late Wednesday evening and Thursday.

Political observers were of the view that with the opposition's postponement of the protest day and the expected release of its activists the tension will be diffused considerably.

And in the words of a source familiar with the PPP's strategy, "Sindh will be saved major jolts as fireworks, if any, will be witnessed inside the Sindh Assembly now and not outside it."

PPP Arrests Detailed

BK3007102592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Jul 92 p 12

[Text] Karachi: At least six hundred Pakistan People's Party activists were arrested on Wednesday in a provincewide crackdown by the Sindh administration in anticipation of a proposed protest day by the opposition, scheduled for Thursday.

Among the arrested were six district presidents of of the interior of the province along with PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Karachi division chief Iqbal Yusuf.

PPP Hyderabad president Abdul Salam Thaheem, Larkana president Abdullah Mahoto, Noor Hassan Kashkori of Jacobabad, Zahoor Alam Rind of Sanghar, Dr. Sikandar Mangrio of Badin and Pir Kamal Shah, president of Khairpur were arrested from their respective districts.

The police officials in Karachi confirmed that at least two hundred Pakistan People's Party activists were arrested in the city.

Prominent arrested in the city, during a purely police operation, included PPP Karachi chief Iqbal Yusuf, general secretary Abdul Rahim Baloch, councilors Mohammad Hussain Baloch and Ali Bakhsh Lasi, Shakil, a nephew of Iqbal Yusuf, the three presidents of Karachi districts Naeem Hussain (Central), Waja Karim Dad Baloch (South) and Malik Ghusam Sarwat Bagh (West).

The police also raided the houses of many PPP activists, but as PPP secretary information Karachi Sathi Ishaq said they were not at their houses because they had smelled a crackdown by the government of Sindh.

The administration officials told The News that all the activisits in Sindh have been detaimed on the section 151 to maintain law and order situation and they would be released by Thursday.

Our correspondents from the interior of the province add:

Hyderabad: Dozens of office-bearers, and activists of PPP and Sindh People's Students Federation (SPSF) have been arrested in the division. The divisional party president and general secretary, and a district party president have also been arrested.

The divisional party scheduled to stage a rally in front of Hyderabad commissioner office at Shahbaz Building. PPP sources said the divisional party would hold the rally, whatever the circumstances were.

Larkana: Larkana adminstration has launched a massive crackdown against the leaders and workers of the PPP and rounded-up a considerable number of its activists.

Those who were arrested include former Larkana Bar Association President and PPP leader Ali Nawaz Changhiro, Shaheed Bhutto Mazar and other party workers, whose names could not be ascertained.

The houses of the member of the Larkana PPP Executive Committee, Imdad Ali Memon and other party leaders have been raided in their absence.

However, some raids proved successful and those arrested have been detained at various police lock-ups of the division.

Meanwhile, in order to escape any onslanght, a considerable number of PPP workers and the activist of its sister organisations have gone underground. Some raids have also been reported at the houses of the SPSF activists, but in fiasco.

Sukkur: All the local leadership of the PPP in the upper Sindh were arrested on Wednesday as raids were conducted in Sukkur, Khairpur, Jacobabad and Nawabshah. About 60 PPP office-bearers, including presidents and general secretaries, were rounded up and locked in different police custodies.

According to reports at least 25 workers of the PPP, including Sukkur PPP President Syed Kazim Ali Shah, General Secretary Mushtaq Suplio and Sukkur People's Lawyers Forum President Syed Madad Ali Shah, were arrested from the division, while Fateh Bhutto, Rohri PPP president, was picked up from his residence.

Ten top PPP local leaders including Shafi Mohanimad Chandio and Syed Kamal Shah were picked up from Khairpur. Others who were arrested from Khairpur are, Khuda Bukhsh Soomro, Khadim Bango, Mohammad Saleh Abbasi, Saindad Bhutto, Mian Usman, Miran Bukhsh, and two local journalists Ali Gul and Zubayr Ahmed.

Reports from Jacobabad suggest that more than 15 PPP workers, including District PPP Secretary General Ahmed Nawaz Pechoho, were arrested during raids.

Other party leaders who were arrested include Lashkar Khan, Manzoor Ahmed Bhutto, Akber Pirzada, Abdul Razzaq, Bahram Khan, Nissar Ahmed, Noor Hassan and Sabir Shah.

At least 13 PPP activists including local party office-bearers were arrested from Nawabshah.

Dadie: At least 30 Pakistan People's Party leaders and workers have been arrested by police from different parts of the district on Wednesday and Tuesday night.

The office-bearers who were arrested include, city president Advocate Shafi Mohammad, Abdul Sattar Meerani, Ali Bukhsh Jhatiyal, Amjad Dhar, Madad Ali Shah, Pir Liaquat Ali, Noor Mohammad, Muhabat Pitan and Gul Mohammad.

Thatta: The local police on Wednesday arrested a number of PPP leaders and workers including Ghulam Mustafa Jakhro, Rab Dino Bhutto, Ishaq Samoo and Abdul Hameed Soomro.

The local police also arrested Jeay Sindh Tarqi Pasand Students' Federation General Secretary Akash Qureshi.

PPI [Pakistan Press Internation] reports from Shahdadpur. Police conducted raids at the houses of some office-bearers and workers of the Shahdadpur PPP and arrested them on Wednesday.

Those apprehended include former Shahadpur Municipal Committee Chairman Salahuddin Qureshi, Taj Haideri, Qabil Mirani, Abdul Jabar Nirwan and Hussain Bukhsh Bagrani.

Work Begins on Chinese-Supplied Nuclear Plant

BK3107074392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 31 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—In spite of intense Western lobbying to scuttle Sino-Pakistan nuclear deal the work on the China-supplied 300 megawatt power plant has already begun.

About 1500 Chinese nuclear engineers and technicians have reached here and they have already put in place the infrastructure for support services.

The power plant is being located on one of the half-dozen sites originally selected for the nuclear plants that were supposed to have come on stream by now if the French had not backed out from its commitment to supply Pakistan with 3 reprocessing plant. The site at Chashma has already passed soil and seismic tests.

The start of work on the nuclear power plant also indicates that Western pressures to enforce embargoes against China for supply of nuclear technology in certain areas of higher sophistication have failed.

Islamabad has made down payment amounting to some 27 million dollars to China and the rest, which is relatively low as compared to prices quoted by Western vendors, will be made in due course of time, but the exact amount that is to be paid is not known though it is said to be between 200 and 300 million dollars.

After in-depth consultations spread over years China agreed early this year to supply Pakistan with the nuclear power plant under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved safeguards and bilateral understanding on peaceful use of this light water reactor.

The plant is patterned on the China's first indigenous Qinshan nuclear power plant, which has already achieved 75 percent of its rated power output. It is expected to attain full power in August.

Munir Ahmad Khan, former chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, visited the Qinshan power plant early this month and found that the plant has undergone very rigorous commissioning tests and is not likely to have teething troubles unlike the Indian indigenous plants that hit snags very often endangering safety.

For the plant to be completed in five years, core fuel will be supplied by China and later on Pakistan and China will decide on the replenishment and regular fuel supply. Pakistan has achieved the capability to enrich uranium to the desired degree but under the agreement core load has to be supplied by China, as is the international practice.

Chashma power plant is the second nuclear power plant being set up in Pakistan. The first, Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KNUPP) was supplied by Canada in mid-sixties.

Meanwhile, future of the 900-mw [megawatt] nuclear plant promised by French President Francois Mitterrand, remains uncertain. Paris is now more reluctant also for the reason that it is once again under tremendous US pressure to deny nuclear technology to Pakistan.

Though the French authorities blame disagreement on the price for the said plant, the fact remains that France which has now signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty knows that Pakistan cannot meet its requirement for application of fullscope safeguards.

Sri Lanka

PLOTE Leader Blames LTTE for Drownings

BK3007093292 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0832 GMT 30 Jul 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Jul (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty civilians travelling from Jaffna are feared drowned in Kilali, while they were being ferried through the lagoon yesterday, People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), states Friday's OBSERVER quoting PLOTE sources in Vavuniya.

The Kilali waterway has become extremely dangerous during the past few weeks following bad weather conditions in the area. The civilians who were feared to be drowned yesterday had been coming from Jaffna to Kilinochchi in a small boat, reports said.

PLOTE leader Viswabharathy in Vavuniya told the OBSERVER that no further details were immediately available about the mishap in Kilali as that place is located within the areas virtually controlled by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. "We are unable to send any rescue teams or other assistance to the spot due

to LTTE threats. The Kilali lagoon, is a few miles away from the 'Elephant Pass' camp. The security forces, too, have warned the people against travelling through Kilali lagoon", he said.

He also said that the LTTE was entirely responsible for this human tragedy, as that group was stubbornly directed the civilians to travel through Kilali while the Army is offering a safer passage through Elephant Pass.

Despite Army warnings, Jaffna civilians use this route to cross over to south on the instance of the LTTE, as they levy taxes on travellers and maintain their own check-points on this route, PLOTE sources said.

Air Force Denies Using 'Barrel Bombs'

BK3007130892 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] The Air Force yesterday denied manufacturing or using barrel bombs in the current war with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and said it was using only conventional bombs.

When pressmen asked whether the Y-8 transport plane that crashed at Iyakkachchi early this month carried barrel bombs, Air Force spokesman Wing Commander Jayalath Weerakkody said the ill-fated plane did not carry barrel bombs. He denied that barrel bombs were being manufactured at Ratmalana, China Bay and Anuradhapura.

Air Force engineers who conducted investigations at the site of the Y-8 plane crash had recovered the front portion and the wings of the plane, ruling out the possibility of a mid-air explosion in the plane. If an explosion had occured, the plane would have been torn to pieces, he said.

Question: Can you rule out LTTE shooting the plane down?

Answer: Not one hundred percent. But if the 505 or anti-aircraft guns were fired, the ground troops and helicopters would have heard it. No such sound was heard.

Col. Munasinghe said the operation planned for late last week was not undertaken as over 10 percent of the civilian population of Kandawalai and Puthukudiyir-uppu did not vacate their homes and seek refuge in the school and milk collecting centre, as requested. The military called off the operation because it did not want to kill civilians.

He said civilians did not use the Elephant Pass road and are now using the Kilali route to cross the Jaffna lagoon. Forty to fifty boats are plying in the night. The navy will enforce the ban soon.